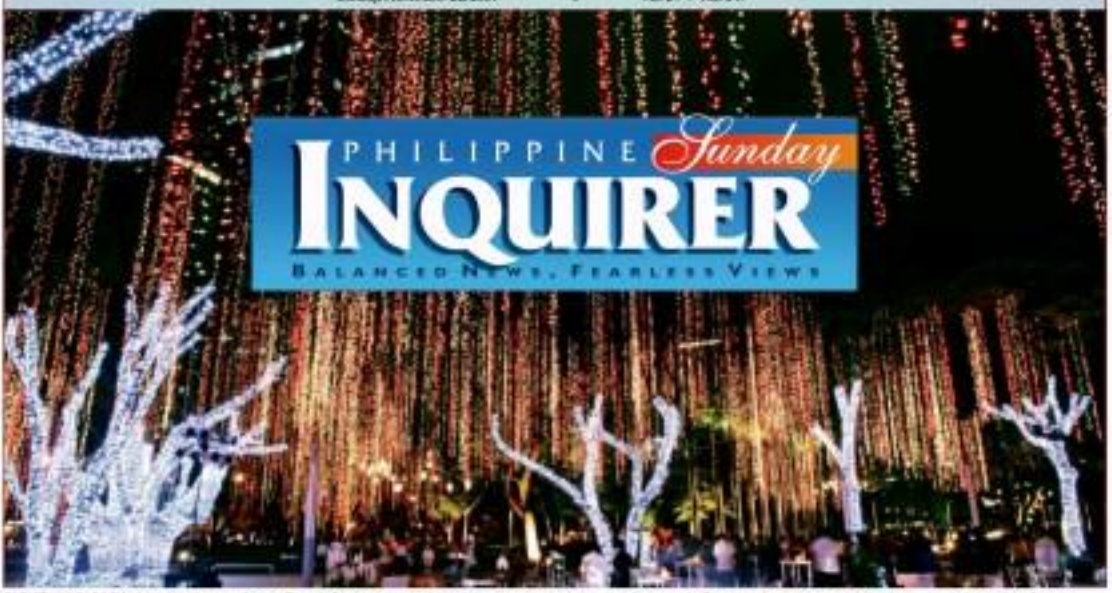
Sunday, November 22, 2009 • Vol. 24 / No. 147

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



CHRISTMAS GARDEN Ayala Land Inc. unveils Ayala Triangle Gardens with an exhibit of abstract sculpture, kinetic installations and a Christmas-themed theater of lights. Located in the heart of the Central Business District, this is the biggest public landscape in Makati City with 20,000 square meters of well-manicured lawns, tree-lined pathways and WiFi zones powered by Globe. MIKE ELIGAN

Manny wants Manny

VILLAR

Villar asks Pacquiao to be in his corner for 2010

MANNY A/8 PACQUIAO A/8

By Michael Lim Ubac

IS THERE A DEAL IN THE MAKING BETWEEN BOXING superstar Manny Pacquiao and Nacionalista Party (NP) standard-bearer Sen. Manny Villar?

Aiming to knock out his rivals in the presidential race this early in the game, Villar has invited Pacquiao to carry out his planned run for a seat in the House representing the province of Sarangani under the NP banner.

Villar met with Pacquiao at the Manila Hotel on Friday, where the head honchos of Solar Sports Entertainment hosted a dinner to celebrate the Filipino hero's Nov. 27 victory over Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto in Las Vegas.

Yesterday after the sweating-in of former Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez and 176 local officials as new NP members in Batangas City, Villar confirmed to some reporters that he spoke with Pacquiao during the dinner.

"Kausap namin si Manny Siya ang kandidato namin sa Sarangani (Manny is with us. He is our candidate in Sarangani)," Villar said.

To the request of the reporters for

Vindicated, novice of Lipa apparitions keeps low profile

By Marra's Erika Lesaba
Inquirer Southern Luzon
and Jane Kelbley
Contributor

TERESITA CASTILLO, TO WHOM THE Virgin Mary reportedly appeared in 1948 when Castillo was a young Carmelite novice, has been declining interviews requests following the lifting of the Church ban against the public veneration of the image of Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Grace, a devotion that stemmed from the apparitions.

"She [Castillo] has decided to maintain a low profile. We have to respect her [wishes]," said Fr. Richard Hernandez, the chair of the new commission created by the Church to reopen the investigation into the apparitions in Lipa.

Hernandez said he was able to interview Castillo, or Teresing as he refers to her, last Thursday.

He said Castillo was so happy and excited when told about the lifting of the ban that he had to calm her down.

Though she underwent so many hardships during the series of investigations into the veracity of the apparitions, Castillo has remained humble, he said.

VINDICATED A/8

Ad industry turns calamity into a chance to do good

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—ORGANIZERS of the 21st Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) said the storms that battered the country this year have galvanized the advertising industry and rallied its members to turn the calamity into an opportunity to do good.

"The major change that we had to deal with was the relocation of the [ad congress] from Baguio to Subic. But that has turned out for the better because both are together in this celebration. As Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Administrator Armand Arreza has said, Subic is only co-hosting the [PAC] with Baguio, while Mayor Reinaldo Bautista said it was like his city just went to Subic," said Margot Torres, 21st PAC chair.

Baguio, which is celebrating its centennial this year, lost the hosting duties of the 21st PAC. Heavy rains

AD INDUSTRY A/8

Tree-bute: Odette 'returns' to earth

By DJ Yap
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

EVEN IN DEATH, SHE CONTINues to nurture the earth.

The ashes of Odette Alcantara, a fierce defender of the environment, were yesterday scattered in her farm in Tanay, Rizal, to nourish the saplings that were planted in her honor.

"It's as though she has returned to the earth," her sister, Mona del Mundo, said during the special ceremony that Alcantara's family and friends dubbed a "tree-bute."

"Some of us wanted to keep a part of her ashes. But it was her wish for her ashes to be scattered completely. She didn't want to be stored in some columbarium," Del Mundo said in Filipino.

Alcantara, green activist, arts patron, and chess player, died on Sept. 22 after suffering an aneurysm. She was nine days shy of 69.

Yesterday under alternately weeping and sunny skies, her family and friends gathered to honor her at the Acacia Suites, an eight-hectare property that she co-owned.

TREE-BUTE A/8

FOR LOVE OF ODETTE What better way to honor the late environmentalist Odette Alcantara than planting trees? Grace Ocbi performs a dance during the ceremony at a farm in Tanay, Rizal. CHE ESPIRITU

US report lauds RP for religious freedom

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES WAS SINGLED OUT FOR praise by the United States for exerting "special efforts" to respect religious freedom and tolerance, as well as promote interfaith dialogue in the world arena, according to a recent report by the US State Department.

The 2009 Report on International Religious Freedom, released in Washington, DC, in late October, said the Philippine government generally respected religious freedom in practice and that there was no change in the status of this respect during the period of the study, from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009.

"There were no reports of forced religious conversion, including of minor American citizens who had been abducted or illegally removed from the US, or the refusal to allow such citizens to be returned to the US," the report said.

"There were no reports of religious detainees or prisoners in the country. The government does not ban or discourage specific religious groups or religious factions," it added.

The Report on International Religious Freedom is submitted to Congress annually by the State Department in compliance with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

US REPORT A/10

So who's worried about Ebdane, BF?

By TJ Burgonio
and Krteline L. Alave

RIDICULOUS! NOW IS ANYONE WORRIED about Bayani Fernando and Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. making a dent on the candidacy of administration standard bearer resigned Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr.?

At least one person in Malacañang

SO WHO'S A/8

• **Pacquiao-Cotto** fight grosses $ 70M SPORTS • **RP kids'** spending power now at P47B SUNDAY BIZ • **Shoemakers** reeling from mustard-oil law TALK OF THE TOWN • **'Koonichiwa'** from a Pinoy family in Japan GLOBAL PINOY • **Leave** Manny Pacquiao alone • Why Jackie Kennedy's legacy of art and style lives on SUNDAY LIFESTYLE • **'New Moon'** eternally boring ENTERTAINMENT • **8 tips** for 'Tiangge' joiners • 10 everyday poisons to beware of • 22 best finds at weekend markets SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

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CAN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS It's sunset, it's cool, it's a great time to be playing volleyball on Boracay.

Palace to PNP: Get road rage suspect

By TJ Burgonio, Julie M. Aurelio and Cynthia D. Balana

MALACAÑANG HAS ORDERED PHILIPPINE National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa to exhaust all means to resolve last Wednesday's fatal, "cruel and senseless" shooting of the son of one of its officials.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms the murder of Mr. Renato Victor Eberle Jr.," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said over government radio station dzRB. "We have ordered the PNP to leave no stone unturned in solving this crime."

The DND has launched a hunt for American Jason Ivler, suspected of shooting Eberle to death after the cars they were driving nearly collided in Santolan Road in Quezon City Wednesday night, according to Remonde who quoted Verzosa.

A policeman who was also incident said the suspect blocked Eberle's vehicle, got down and shot the victim at close range.

Immediate death

But in an interview with Vice President Noli de Castro over the latter's radio program, "Para Sa Iyo, Bayan," the victim's father, Maharlika Chief of Staff Renato Eberle Sr., said that based on initial investigation, the suspect shot his son twice, with the second bullet piercing through his chest, causing immediate death.

"I hope this will be resolved soon and no arrest made," Eberle Sr. said. He added that he went to Zamboanga City at the time of the shooting.

Eberle Jr. was a recruitment manager in the Peninsula Manila hotel.

Ivler, 27, is the nephew of Robert Stephen Pollard, an economist at the Asian Development Bank. He is the son of Pollard's wife, Marlene Aguilar, from a previous marriage.

Pollard is the registered owner of the Honda CRV which figured a diplomatic plate that Ivler was allegedly driving when he shot and killed the young Eberle.

Appeal to surrender

Remonde appealed to Ivler to surrender to the authorities.

"We take this opportunity to call on the suspect to surrender and everyone who knows him to persuade him to peacefully give himself up to the authorities, even to me to Malacañang, so give justice to the unnecessary murder of the only son of Undersecretary Eberle," he said.

Once arrested, the police should cost for Ivler go scot-free, Remonde said. "We're holding the DND responsible [not to] allow the suspect to get away."

Remonde was referring to the fact that Ivler had been arrested second body despite his arrest in 2004 in Zamboanga City after being linked to a vehicular accident that resulted to the death of Senator Pimentel, pretrial adviser for southern.

Ivler, in that incident, was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide, serious physical injuries and damage to property in a Ford City court.

In Quezon City, Chief Insp. Benjamin Elvinzon Jr. of the Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said police were keeping an eye on different spots in Metro Manila in the hopes of apprehending Ivler.

"What I can say is that we are watching three spots in Metro Manila which are supposedly places where the suspect has been sighted in the past," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

Also yesterday, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Ivler was not covered by diplomatic immunity and could be arrested by police in their possession of murder.

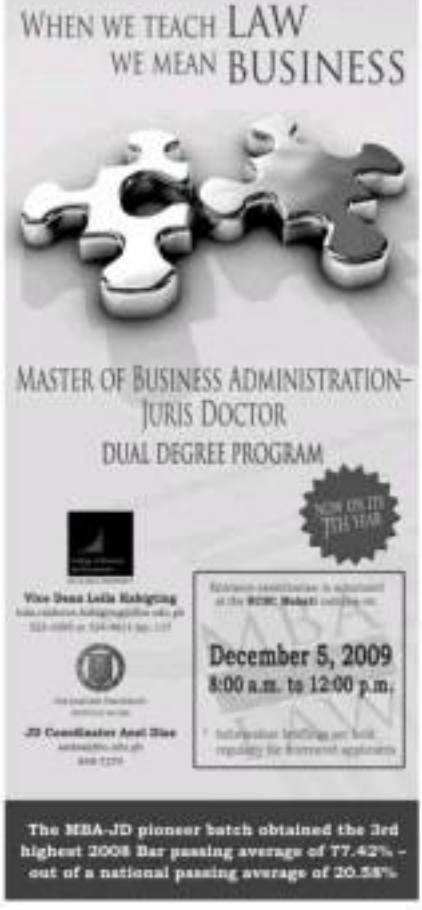
Diplomatic immunity

"There are no records that would indicate that Mr. Jason Ivler has been accredited for purposes of entitlement to a diplomatic status," DFA spokesperson Ed Malaya told the Inquirer in an interview.

He said the DFA had issued an accreditation ID only to Ivler's stepfather, Stephen Pollard, who was the registered owner of the blue Honda CRV with diplomatic plate 20902 used by Ivler on Wednesday.

Malaya said diplomatic immunity also extended to Pollard's two minor children with his wife Marlene, a niece of singer Freddie Aguilar.

Pollard was issued diplomatic immunity as he worked for the Asian Development Bank, an international organization entitled to diplomatic status.



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Fe del Mundo

"Dr. Fe Del Mundo: **A Beautiful Life**"

Coffee Table Book by: Marsha Ledesma

Preface by: Alicia Del Mundo Bengzon

What is the essence of **"DR. FE DEL MUNDO'S BEAUTIFUL LIFE"** The answer lies in another question, **"Why only love with your heart when you can pour your whole soul into it?"**

At 98, Dr. Fe del Mundo has received more than 250 citations and awards as **"Grand Dame of Philippine Pediatrics and Medicine, National Scientist, Author, Educator, Public Servant, Humanitarian, A Woman of Many Firsts".** This monument of extraordinary achievements were built on a foundation of faith, hope, and love in the core of her being, her soul, the dwelling place of the Divine Healer.

Thus, when the Medical Observer selected her as "Doctor of Distinction! they said:

"It is not for the functions of the mind and the hand that we honor you. We honor you for what is inside you that we see in all that you have done – because you firmly believe that more than a keen eye, a sharp mind, and a skillful hand, a physician needs a compassionate heart."

C. W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral of the U.S. Navy during World War II, wrote about the Children's Memorial Hospital (now the Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center):

"Dr. Fe del Mundo has passed her all her great soul into an undertaking to beset with difficulty its emergence from a vision into reality seemed impossible. She has set her faith against hardship after hardships and overcame them all for the sake of her beloved children."

In 2008, Dr. Fe del Mundo received this citation as the Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Awardee:

"..... for her great personal sacrifices to improve the lives of Filipino children and their families,.....especially the poor and the disadvantaged... we can truly say that she embodies the true spirit and mission of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta."

The introduction by Florisa Castillo to Marsha Ledesma's book "Living from the Heart" is an endearing tribute of a mother to Doctora Fe:

"Dr. Fe del Mundo stood next to God in my mind whenever she touched my little one in the awesome silence of her examining room. Your article brought back memories of long ago when with a sick child I would see her pass by our hospital room on her way to church in the early evening and how just that sight of her set my heart at rest."

Why only love with your heart when you can pour your whole soul into it? The answer is in the "Heart of Gold" Award by Marsha Ledesma who describes the essence of "Dr. Fe del Mundo: A Beautiful Life":

"Having tirelessly dedicated her life to improving health care for children and underserved families in her country, having selflessly engaged in humanitarian service for over eight decades, having quietly acted as an inspiration to thousands of medical service professionals whose minds she has shaped, having been permanently enshrined in the hearts and affections of the countless patients she has cared for and cured, and possessing a deep humility in believing herself undeserving of acclaim, **Dr. Fe del Mundo** – whose name means **"Faith of the World"** – undoubtedly ranks among the greatest souls to have ever walked this earth."

"CARING FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES"

Palace: Obama's choice of envoy to RP heralds warmer relations ahead

By TJ Burgonio

US PRESIDENT BARACK Obama's appointment of a new envoy to the Philippines to replace Ambassador Kristie Kenney suggests well for the two countries' relations, Malacañang said yesterday.

"Considering that the incoming ambassador is the personal choice and personal nominee of President Barack Obama, that could only mean one thing. That this will all go well for friendship, manners and better US-Philippine relations," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said over dzBB radio.

The appointment of Harry K. Thomas was proof that Obama "walks his talk about giving importance" to the Asia-Pacific region, Remonde said.

The appointment came a week after the highest-level visit to the country of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Bolitoche praised outgoing ambassador Kenney for exerting all efforts to reach out to Filipinos.

Not smooth sailing

"We would like to thank Ambassador Kristie Kenney. We've seen how nice she is. She's one of the most popular American ambassadors to the Philippines. We're sad and we'll miss her," he said.

But the militant fingering Hyeonsoog Shakedown

HARRY K. THOMAS

warned Thomas that he would be facing a tough time in the Philippines because of lingering questions on the presence of US troops in Mindanao and the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), the treaty governing the conduct of American soldiers in the country.

"It won't be smooth sailing for the new envoy because Thomas will face the still unresolved issue of the Visiting Forces Agreement. He will have calls for the review and termination of the VFA. He will face queries on the permanent presence of US troops in Mindanao," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said.

He said Thomas would be judged "based on his engagement of issues."

Reyes said Thomas' predecessor, Kenney, often took time out to interact with Filipinos by showing up at collegiate basketball games and TV game shows, but she was leaving behind unresolved issues.

"While seemingly departing from the mold of the 'cold warrior' envoys of old through her popular antics, Kenney somehow upheld US imperial interests during her stint. Aside from watching college ball games and appearing on 'Wowowee,' Kenney should also be remembered for taking to a convicted Latter Corporal Daniel Smith into US embassy custody in violation of Philippine laws," he said.

Also, Smith was sentenced by a Makati court to 40 years in prison in December 2006 for the rape of a Filipina woman, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Kenney forged an agreement to transfer Smith from the city jail to the US embassy.

Unresolved issues

The Court of Appeals acquitted Smith on April (the year), saying the evidence did not conclusive it of the "moral certainty" of Smith's guilt. He has since been freed and flown to the US.

"For all her efforts to give the 'true US center' a chummy spin, controversies in the VFA, human rights violations and US hosting to the Smith still came to the fore. She will leave behind many unresolved issues, including those that have spawned a Philippine Senate resolution calling for a review or termination of the VFA," Reyes said.

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Serge O leaves LP 'for good' but will back Noynoy

By Michael Lim Ubac

IT'S FINAL. FORMER SEN. Sergio "Serge" Osmeña III is leaving the Liberal Party (LP) for good.

Osmeña, who is seeking a Senate seat in 2010, announced yesterday in an interview over dzEE radio that he was more inclined to join Sen. Francis Escudero, who is expectedly running for vice president as an independent in next year's polls.

Osmeña said he had made up his mind to quit the LP "long before" Sen. Benigno Aquino III announced his candidacy for president.

"My mind is made up. Yes," he said, when asked on the 87 if he is leaving the LP was final.

"As I've told the people, I will run (for senator) as independent and let them take note of me," he said. He said he was also saying this despite efforts by the LP led by campaign manager Florencio Abad and members of the Aquino family to win him back.

He said his decision would make him accountable only to the electorate, adding: "I will leave my hereby debt of gratitude to my group."

"It's possible. (but) (those) using will be 'Expedito Aguino,'" said the former senator, when asked if he would join Escudero, who bolted the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) last month but has yet to decide on his political plans for 2010.

Escudero had called Osmeña up soon after learning that the latter had bolted the LP to pursue against the invitation of Ralph Recto, former environment planning secretary, in the LP senatorial slate.

Osmeña had served as Escudero's political strategist and campaign manager before joining the LP camp.

Osmeña, however, had run candidates for running with Estrada in 2007, the onset of martial law, but escaped two years later and went underground.

Osmeña still bears the scars of Hacienda Luisita massacre in 2004 when he was governor of Cebu province.

Osmeña said before the martial law, he was already active in the anti-Marcos movement.

"But let's see how the (strategy) is run by the (LP). If he (Noynoy) will still bring respect (to) (his) political (image) in the senatorial slate, I will not support him anymore," Osmeña said.

His advice to Aquino: "Be careful because even those people are well-meaning. They will have (strong) intentions because they (belong to) old politics, which is not (to the liking of the people)."

Osmeña had received flak for his (image) of former Presidents Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

He had (also) said he had (opposition to his inclusion in the LP senatorial ticket). Recto said on Saturday that he was surprised, adding that he was never involved in corruption.

Speaking on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program, "Tapat ko'to," Recto said he could not think of any defense since he was born and bred with Osmeña when they were both senators except that they would always debate on important issues affecting the country.

"My track record has never been tainted with corruption or graft," Recto said, adding that Osmeña should not blame him for serving under the Arroyo administration because Osmeña himself came from the same administration in 2001.

"I was surprised by the statement of (Sergio Osmeña. But) It's hard to speculate," Recto told De Castro, who asked if Osmeña had a score to settle with him.

Recto likewise said that as far as the (opposed) votes added (the) (SSC) (has) one of the reasons stated against him by Osmeña, the law would have not been passed if he was alone in pushing for it when he was with a caucus.

"I alone could not have passed it. There are many senators (who) voted for (the) (law) (as) passed it," he said.

De Castro said that when he was a senator, he had seen how Recto and Osmeña debated intensely and brilliantly on important issues on the Senate floor.

With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

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Why Bongbong, militant solons want to know

By Michael Lim Ubac

IMEE

THE SPIRIT OF EDSA'S Flower Rep. Bienvenido "Bong-bong" Marcos Jr. is the standout story of the Sachsenhausen Diary (SD) has prompted the reanimation of the leftist movement in the country to clarify the matter with MP standard-bearer Sen. Manuel Villar.

Party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna and Liza Maza of Gabriela will meet with Villar next week to finalize the congressional political alliance between the late dictator's son's party Nacionalista Party (Lakas-NPC) with the MP.

Ocampo, along with his spouse, University of the Philippines Journalism professor Bobbit Malig was imprisoned by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1972, the onset of martial law, but escaped two years later and went underground.

Ocampo still bears the scars of Hacienda Luisita massacre in 2004 when he was governor of Cebu province.

Ocampo said that he had already informed Villar that the MP-RBL alliance will not deviate from his commitment to pursue our issues involving the filmmen. "We are giving his assistance due consideration in making our decision next week."

Ocampo had said earlier he would have to study the terms of the MP-RBL alliance.

"Should the (MP-RBL alliance compromise our stand, we'll review our (supporting) support for MP (Villar)," he said, adding that Villar was fully informed that the party-list groups had not (published) (issued with) the Marcoses—(implications) for human rights victims and recovery of ill-gotten wealth.

On Friday, Marcos formally joined the MP senatorial slate, which had also offered slots to Ocampo and Maza.

Both Villar and Marcos signed a "condition agreement" formalizing the alliance at the two parties for the 2010 polls at the Lanzel House in Mandaluyong City.

Marcos said he could work with activists. "Because we are not the same. If we were like (them), then we would be on different sides. But the issues now are poverty, employment, health care, foreign relations."

Marcos noted that the MP senatorial slate was composed of representatives (of various political groups and) sectors in society and said he did not expect Ocampo or Maza to agree with him on every issue.

Villar justified the MP coalition with the RBL, saying that a "united front against poverty" was the panacea for the nation's ills that have continued to hamper development in the country.

Villar said the fight to defeat poverty needed all hands on deck, including (those from) (the) (non)-(mainstream) (and) (revolutionary) political persuasions.

"What we are fighting is the battle against poverty. If, at the outset, we are already fighting each other, we will not succeed in fighting poverty," he said.

In a (video), Villar said he was not "in the (orbit) of surrounding himself with (those who) will (employ) such (as) and (say yes to) my every word. I believe that (different) (views) is (option) (conducive) to (sound) policy."

Marcos said the militant lawmakers, however, opined on the candidacy of Sen. Loren Legarda, who is Villar's running mate.

Marcos said the (BR), would (still) be (with) Villar (in) (his) campaign (to) Legarda and "all (those) belonging to the (multisectoral) (lineup)."

In a statement, Maza said that Legarda had actively promoted women's rights through her support for the enactment of various laws, such as the Anti-Violence against Women and Children Act and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.

She also cited Legarda's consistent advocacy of environmental protection as one reason (why) (women) (are) (supporting) (her) (campaign) (for) (support) (her) (in) 2010.

"We hope that she will continue to pursue these advocacies as she seeks higher office in the May 2010 elections," Maza said.

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Official charged for using gov't car

A SARANGANI provincial board member is being (probed) (charged) for illegally using a government pickup to go to a shopping mall.

The Ombudsman filed in the Sandiganbayan antigraft court a case against Sarangani board member Rainier Rentoy for illegally using a government-owned (van) (pickup) to go to the SM mall in Davao City three months ago.

Rentoy, however, said the van authorized to use the government vehicle because the van is helping a Sarangani resident who was confined at the Davao Medical Center at the time.

"Since the vehicle (did) not (have) (a) (record) of official travel to Davao City on July 31 2009, when it was (impounded) at SM City, it was authorized that (adjust) vehicle was (misused)," the Ombudsman said.

Rentoy said it was the province's government (that) (sent) him to Davao City to assist a confined (man) treated for cancer at Davao Medical Center.

The Ombudsman, however, said (the) (Republic) (received) (a) (letter) (from) (a) (friend) (of) (Rentoy) (who) (was) (only) (in) (Davao) (City) (on) (July) (31) (and) (July) (1) (Edubert) (Tendero Jr.)

MILF: Iran's help welcome in peace talks

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC Liberation Front (MILF) has welcomed Tehran's interest in helping resolve the decades-old Moro rebellion in Mindanao.

Ani Mashwell, chair of the MILF's peace panel secretariat, said Iran's interest was a clear indication of the growing international support for the peace talks which began 13 years ago.

Mashwell said Tehran could become part of the International Contact Group (ICG), a mechanism to ensure that all agreements were complied with by both sides.

The ICG is currently composed of the United Kingdom, Japan and Turkey. Saudi Arabia, which was invited, has not yet responded.

Peace negotiations hit a snag after the Philippine government backed off from signing a memorandum of agreement on ancestral domains, which would have given the MILF a larger area to control, in August last year.

On Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Manoucher Mottaki told reporters in Manila his government was ready to help in the peace talks between the government and MILF if could remain.

Mottaki said Iran, a member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), had not received an invitation from either party yet but his government would be willing to take on a greater role in the talks. —Jeffrey Mallows, *Inquirer Mindanao*

BACK TO EARTH As friends and relatives watch, Sarah Alcantara, granddaughter of Odette Alcantara, plants the first tree along with the ashes of the late environmentalist, who had wished to be "returned to earth" after her death last September. CONTRIBUTED

So who's worried about Ebdane, BF?

From page A1

choice to be married.

If the chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority and the former public works secretary formally run for President, they will not lose the votes for Teodoro, and Secretary Raul Gonzalez, chief presidential legal counsel.

"But if they're going to take away votes from Gibo, they're also going to take away votes from other candidates," the legal counsel for Lakas-Kampi-CMD said in a phone interview.

For instance, in Fernando's hometown Marikina City, voters sympathetic to other presidential candidates "will be forced to go" for him, Gonzalez said. "There are plums and interests."

All three are former members of the Arroyo Cabinet, and if they go head to head in next year's presidential elections, it won't be surprising if the public thinks the administration is divided, too.

FERNANDO

EBDANE

Crossing the Rubicon

"That's a reality we can't change anymore. If we cry over spilled milk, what do we get out of it? They have crossed the Rubicon. To be more classical, they have crossed the Rubicon," Gonzalez said.

If Fernando and Ebdane run for president, they won't be helping the administration as Teodoro has remained at the bottom of poll surveys.

"We should accept the reality that they will make a dent on the administration, but I don't think that will be a major factor," Gonzalez said. "The whole world knows they are not with the party anymore."

The Lakas-Kampi-CMD proclaimed Teodoro and his running mate, actor-TV host Edu Manzano, at last Thursday's national convention at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

Party-switching

Fernando, still hurting because of the party's decision of picking Teodoro over him, said on Friday that he no longer considered himself a member of the merged Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

"I do not believe in the party anymore. The party is disintegrating. I do not consider myself a member of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD anymore," he said in Filipino and Pilipino.

The MMDA chair also hinted during that he would join the administration's senatorial slate, saying he knew nothing about his appointee inclusion nor was he given notice.

Fernando stressed he was doing "the right thing" for the people and that he would be deemed resigned from his appointed post once he files his certificate of candidacy.

Recalcitrant

Ebdane, said resigning would be his "most decisive thing" to do for Fernando, who insists on his presidential plan in defiance of the party's position.

"The situation has become [impossible] because he insists on running even if there's already an administration candidate. How can the party support him? He is a recalcitrant member. The most decent thing to do is resign, which he intends to do, and we should give him credit for it," he said.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said he suspected Fernando's pronouncement that the party was on the verge of dissolving in view of defections by key members to opposition parties.

"I hold out Hayden Fernando is very high esteem. We can't put a price on his sterling record as a public servant. So we only need to understand why he feels bitter toward the party. But the party remains strong," Remonde said over government-run dzRB.

Radical departure

Ebdane, who belatedly cited his failed to join a party sweeping in September that led to the nomination of Teodoro as standard bearer, launched his presidential campaign more than a week ago.

Yesterday, he said he would seek the presidency under the Partido ng Manggagawa at Magsasaka (PMM or the Workers and Peasants Party), noting that it is only the political party that represents the interests of the workers and peasants in the Philippines.

"It is a radical departure from the country's traditional party politics which, for over 100 years, has been dominated by political groups organized and led by the land-owning class or landowners, the traders and later, by big businessmen," Ebdane said.

He has been president of the former national police chief said he would push for equitable distribution of wealth among Filipinos.

"We will work for the rights of workers and peasants, adequate government funding for health care and education, and greater participation of women, NGOs, and POs in all levels of government."

Lakas-CMD-Kampi officials have said that Ebdane was welcome to join their group, if he wants to run for senator. With a report from Allison M. Lopez

Tree-bute: Odette 'returns' to earth

From page A1

ALCANTARA: Still nurturing the earth INQUIRER PHOTO

In symbolic Alcantara's strength and fortitude, the tree planters began the ceremony with the planting of a Philippine ironwood (mangkono) sapling.

The species is said to be the toughest of Philippine hardwoods.

"It takes four hours to cut with a chainsaw, and four days to cut with an ax. That's how hard it is," said Bruggel Carmona, treasurer of Earth Day Network Philippines (EDNP).

1,000 saplings

Sixty-nine young trees indigenous to the Philippines, including narra, were planted to represent Alcantara's 69 years on earth.

But EDNP chair Elvira "Barbet" Gomez, a former environment secretary, said some 1,000 saplings would be planted in all.

Before the tree-planting activity, Grace Udal dressed to "Barbable" (pull on the lips, playful rhythmic beats using indigenous instruments.

Sarah Alcantara told the crowd that "the first thing" her grandmother insisted was "for everyone to smile."

"Now are you going to pull this off now that you're gone?" she said she remembered thinking to herself.

"As I stand here today, the pressed me wrong again. Even if she's not here physically, she's still able to unite people," Sarah said.

Gomez said Alcantara knew at heart that there was only "one Earth to nourish us all."

"Precisely because she has touched our lives, she remains a part of us. Lighting to strength to fight for what we think is right," Gomez said.

She said planting trees could be considered "the biggest tribute we can give Odette."

Passion lives on

More than a month after her passing, Alcantara's advocacy lives on the passion for the environment that she shared with and passed on to her family and friends.

At her home in Blue Ridge, Quezon City, where she welcomed students, fellow environmentalists, artists and even government officials, he informal gatherings, forums and workshops, the talk is still love for nature.

But son Alex Alcantara said it was part of her unwritten will. "She verbalized, when she was still physically alive, that this will be the meeting place for the common good for the environment."

So, as it was when Alcantara was alive, EDNP members held their board meeting at her house on Nov. 6 and discussed the numerous projects she started.

"We are continuing the advocacy of the organization, which is also our way to celebrate Odette's unconfinement," Gomez said.

On that day, EDNP also invited Lane Anderson, a representative of a Norwegian company making biodegradable plastics out of corn and potato, to present some of its products.

Dubbed as "biobags," the products are a possible solution to the garbage problem besetting the Philippines, made worse pronounced by waterways clogged with mostly plastic trash.

(The 32-metre long female whale shark found dead in Manila Bay early this month was discovered to have eaten plastics and nails.)

Good time to act

Gomez said it was a good time to call on people to act, especially to the aftermath of the aerial storms that whipped the country.

What happened "highlights the urgency for everybody to take action," she said.

Alex Alcantara said his mother had long warned about what nature, harmed and abused, could do.

Indeed, Ahcantara died four days before Tropical Storm "Ondoy" triggered what has been described as the worst flooding in Metro Manila.

Anderson said that while many countries had already banned the use of plastic bags, government had yet to specify any timeline for.

He said the use of "biobags" was an option but that it should come with structural support as well, such as garbage segregation and compost stations.

She also said dumping biodegradable wastes such as leftovers food in landfills would produce methane gas, which is harmful to the atmosphere.

If there is a compost station, biodegradable wastes, including the "biobags," can be turned into compost that could even generate electric power to a biogas plant, Anderson said.

And one glitch: The biodegradable products cost four to six times that of ordinary plastics.

But Anderson quickly added that people should also look at value dumper plastics cost the environment.

Though ordinary plastics are cheaper, "how much does it cost to clean the earth afterward?" she said.

10M movement

EDNP is celebrating its 15th anniversary next year with the launch of the 10M movement.

The movement hopes to plant 10 million trees by next year, and to gather 10 million signatures from people to show are only their concern for the environment but also their commitment to do what they can for it.

EDNP has started a website...www.10mmovement.ning.com—where people can sign up for the campaign.

"This is a revolution—a nonviolent—of our mind, our attitudes, and our practices that must happen within us," the EDNP said.

Gomez said gathering enough support for the environment would also send the message to aspiring leaders that "the environment should be high on their agenda."

Ad industry turns calamity into a chance to do good

From page A1

damaged by strong typhoons in October triggered landslides and floods damaging roads leading to the country's capital.

Organizers said they would donate a large portion of the revenue from the 21st PAC to storm and flood victims.

Torres said the money would "enable homes to be built, aid to be given, and a new direction to be pursued by the industry in helping our Filipinos."

She said more projects that would help in the recovery and rehabilitation of communities hit by calamities would be lined up by the advertising industry.

"The ad congress was instrumental in making this happen because all of the major players in the industry are here to come together rarely. I am personally proud of what we were able to do as an industry," Torres said.

For typhoon victims

Clarissime Castillo, chair of the Advertising Board of the Philippines, said Project Above Disaster, get out of the water; else means lifting oneself—one of the initiatives under the Brand Aid campaign...was designed to "relieve the suffering of our countrymen who were hit most by the storms."

She said sponsors and media companies supporting the 21st PAC would donate ad space earnings to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) to fund the construction of houses for typhoon victims.

Castillo, however, said procceds for last night's Anvil Awards, highlight of the PAC where the best ad campaigns were cited, would go to the PNRC Bicutan chapter.

Torres said about P1.2 million generated from tickets sales from the awards night would go to projects benefiting typhoon victims.

"But it will also go to the ad session of the public about taking care of the environment and training members of the industry to make a difference through their work. The expertise of our industry is commendable...and we will put that into good use," she added.

Brand-Aid

She said organizers took advantage of the PAC, which is held every two years, to launch Brand-Aid because "this kind of gathering is rare."

"But when it happens, it can be productive. And that's what we were able to do," she said.

Digital explosion

Over 3,000 delegates were treated to a variety of topics ranging from strategy, media, entertainment, creativity and the rise of digital channels by a roster of international experts.

The experts gave talks on the growing role of social media and the effects of the "digital explosion" in the surge in the number of digital platforms people use to connect to each other.

Torres said organizers took advantage of this phenomenon by setting up a website, as well as Facebook and Twitter accounts to update people about PACreation.

Donations for Baguio

"What's great is while the speakers were onstage, we would get immediate reactions from the audience in the form of tweets. So we know how they felt about each speaker. We also got to connect them back our opportunities. The reactions were mostly positive," she said.

Arroza said the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) would donate the income from the rental of the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center (SBECC), the congress venue, to typhoon victims.

"The SBMA and the entire community of Olongapo City join the advertising industry in helping Baguio City and other affected areas in Northern Luzon in the process of rebuilding and recovery," he said in a statement.

Arroza said the donations would be used to buy an ambulance for Baguio City, where communications were hit by landslides and floods.

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Biggest Appliance Network

Pimentel says Manny Villar is his man

'Noynoy lacks maturity; Erap will be disqualified; Gibo has no chance at all'

PHOTO/PIMENTEL

PHOTO/PHILSTAR/JAUTOGRAPH on the DHQ copy of the Pangalan-Corte Egle which Manny Pangalan gave to Sen. Manny Villar. The presidential hopeful proudly shows (his souvenir is Mackinaldus Party-mate (from left) Armand Sanchez, Aziz Tamano, Bonghong Marcos, Martin Quevedo (see and spokesperson of the detained Antrin Quevedo) and Gilbert Remulla.

By Lala B. Sidayorta

SENIOR MINORITY LEADER Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said he was backing Sen. Manuel Villar over all the other presidential hopefuls in the opposition.

Pimentel said character and courage were what he looked for in a future president, and that he liked what he heard when Villar discussed his platform during a forum they attended in September at the Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC.

"I think he's a good man. The charges against him were proven to be untrue," Pimentel said of Villar at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum.

He added that the Senate resolution calling for the dismissal of the ethics complaint filed against Villar in connection with the C-5 flood extension project, and which was signed by 12 senators including himself, was a political response to a "politicized" investigation.

Pimentel, a veteran lawmaker and opposition stalwart is not a member of any political party, having resigned recently from the Partido Demokratikong Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan.

Heading 'seasoning'

Villar was No. 1 in the surveys for presidential aspirants, followed by Sen. "Tito" Sotto III, who came into the picture.

But Pimentel said he found Aquino, the only son of the late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., lacking in "seasoning" and "maturity."

He also said Joseph Estrada could be disqualified from running because the Commission has the prerogative of a former President—a senator, the vice president and now, who is serving as Estrada's lawyer.

As for the other presidential aspirants, Pimentel expressed the belief that no one among them, including the administration standard-bearer, former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, had a chance to win.

On the spot

Pimentel also said that since the resolution clearing Villar was signed by 12 senators, it might be difficult for the Senate committee of the whole, which had conducted the inquiry into the C-5 flood extension projects, to get enough votes to issue a report finding the latter liable.

"I wonder where they will get the signatures. Twelve signed ours ... My knee just rests on the spot, I know, but we did that because what started as a legal question has become politicized," Pimentel said.

The resolution is to abstain until the committee of the whole comes up with its report. Sen. Jinggoy Estrada had earlier said he would withdraw his signature, but maintained that he believed Villar to be innocent of the charge that he benefited from the road renovation project.

According to Pimentel, the exoneration may not be intended to preempt the release of the committee report, and is just expressing the lawmakers' sentiment that the probe had turned up nothing against Villar.

He said he also believed that the inquiry was being used to derail Villar's planned run for the presidency.

"The issue was political. We came up with a political response also," Pimentel said.

Manny wants Manny in his corner

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clarification. Villar said he was leaving it to Pangalan to make the formal announcement "out of respect for him."

Villar also said he and Pangalan were "for the most part in principle to support each other."

No decision yet

In Rizal, Sotto, Pangalan yesterday confirmed in a brief press conference that Villar had invited him to join the NP.

But he added: "I have not decided until this time. I have no commitment yet to any political party."

He also denied reports that he had received campaign funds from the billionaire Villar.

Pangalan has formed an alliance to campaign for Sotto in the presidential race. But he said no one had given him money to fund his campaign.

"I will be the first to announce to you if ever I have received campaign funds," he told reporters in the vernacular.

Pangalan revoked in the grand welcome prepared by Kinatitse officials to a speech, he thanked his supporters for their "love and support" during his latest fight.

"Thank you for believing in me, in praying with me. My victory is your victory," he said.

100-percent sure

Early yesterday were Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program "Para Sa Iyo, Bayan." Pangalan said he was "100 percent sure" of running for congressman of Batangas under his new Partido Chang-Mirembayan.

Pangalan told De Castro, who had attended his fight against Cotto, that he was to Batangas to support the filing of the certificates of candidacy of "my mayors" who will run in the local elections.

He said he would file his own certificate after the party members in Batangas choose his line in the polls.

Pangalan said his party was yet unsure whether it would coalesce with other political parties or back specific candidates at the national level.

He thanked the public for supporting him in all his fights, and asked the people of Batangas to also back him in his second shot at politics.

Pangalan ran for Congress representing Oriental Samar City in 2007, and was beaten by the incumbent Darlene Antonino-Custodio.

Long-time friends

Villar said he and Pangalan had been "friends for a long time now."

Asked if the champion had set conditions, such as financing or the inclusion of local officials in the NP slate, he their purported impending alliance, Villar said: "Honestly, there is no financial deal."

Pangalan's commitments to the NP is "not formal yet," Villar said. "He supports me, but we still don't know ... in what form."

Villar visited Pangalan in Baguio City when the latter was running for his fight with the then world welterweight champion Cotto.

But the visit angered Pangalan's American coach Freddie Roach, who said politicians should not disrupt the boxer's training.

On the other hand, an NP source, who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak publicly on the issue, told the Inquirer that the Pangalan camp had invited Villar to the fight in Las Vegas, purportedly in that the senator could raise the champion's hand after winning his record-setting seventh belt.

The source said Villar's political synergists decided that such a PR stunt would not sit well with Filipino voters.

Palace ally

Hours before the Friday dinner at the Manila Hotel, Pangalan was swallowed the Order of Sikatuna, with the rank of Datu, by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It is one of the highest honors given by Malacañang to civilians, usually to statesmen.

The Palace looks to Pangalan as one of its best backers. He supported Mr Arroyo's run for the presidency in 2004, and endorsed the administration's Team Unity senatorial slate in 2007.

His senate includes Environment Secretary Lito Atienza and Deputy National Security Adviser Luis "Chavit" Singson, both ardent Arroyo supporters. (With reports from Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Inquirer Mindanao and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila)

Vindicated, novice of Lipa apparitions keeps low profile

Front page A1

"She never complained or even asked why she was being questioned," Hernandez said.

He said Castillo, who is now 82 years old, cannot recall the dates when the Virgin Mary appeared to her but she can clearly note the message that the Blessed Mother wanted her to give the world.

In 1948, the Virgin Mary reportedly appeared 15 times to Castillo, who was a postulant at the Carmelite convent in Lipa, Batangas. Nine points will body images reportedly left from the sky. In the last of her appearances to Castillo, the Blessed Virgin is said to have identified herself, saying "I am the Mother of All Nations."

The bishop of Lipa at the time, Alfred Verzosa, believed to the apparitions and allowed the veneration of the image of Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Grace.

No miracle

In 1951, however, the Church hierarchy declared that "there was no supernatural intervention in the reported extraordinary happenings, including the showers of rose petals in Lipa."

Mariano's successor, Bullos Santos, ordered that "no permit be given to anyone by the Lipa Carmelite community and the name of Our Lady of Mediatrix be withdrawn from public view".

The ban was lifted 46 years later by Archbishop Mariano Gaviola in 1991.

On Nov. 12, Gaviola's successor, Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, issued a formal decree lifting the 1951 ban. Arguelles also created the commission, headed by Hernandez, to conduct a new investigation into the apparitions.

Arguelles said he was merely reviewing Gaviola's 1991 order and was doing so because he saw "nothing wrong in praising the image of the Blessed Mother" and that he knew the "love of the people for her."

He noted that despite the ban, the faithful have continued to go on pilgrimages to the Carmel monastery in Lipa to pray and ask for favors from the Blessed Mother.

He said the commission still evaluate the documents still available on the events of 1948 to advise the Church leadership on "the proper pastoral approach" to the continuing pilgrimage of people to the site of the apparitions.

International interest

The news that Arguelles had ordered a new investigation and lifted the ban on the public veneration of the Mediatrix has created interest not just in the local community of devotees but internationally as well.

The Spanish daily La Vanguardia carried links to two articles published in Inquirer.net as well as its own well-researched articles from its archives.

Little wonder as the events of 1948 were headlined in national newspapers and reported internationally. Lipa was referred to as "the Lourdes of Asia" and Philippine Airlines flew special flights to the pilgrims in Lipa.

A special pilgrim image of the miraculous Medalla was made and brought to New York and Madrid. More than 3,000 took part in the procession that was later held on New York's Second Avenue.

Those were heady days indeed. Even former President Elpidio Quirino attended a Mass in Lipa in 1949 and joined the vast crowds in hopes of witnessing a petal shower. Thousands would line up for the rosary in which the petals had been treasured and miraculous healings and conversions were reported and documented.

The original statue of Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace was commissioned from the sculptor Circuled, in accordance with the instructions that Castillo had received from the Virgin Mary: "I want a statue of myself to be made so that my children can see me. Describe me to your chaplain because I want my statue to look as you see me. And to be as large as that of Our Lady of Lourdes which stands inside the shrine."

"I told this from Carmel, I will enter no image be placed here. This place must be cleaned so that it may become a shrine for prayer."

When the image was finished and revealed for public veneration, many witnessed miraculous and mysterious events were attributed to it. The fragrance of the unending shower of petals that occurred from time to time on the grounds outside the convent would fill the air for blocks and draw thousands of devotees and curiosity seekers.

Harrowing events

A message that the Virgin Mary had given in 1948 seems to foretell the harrowing events that were to come: "Do not block or debase my sacred place nor despise my words."

Along with the ban it issued in 1951, the Church hierarchy rejected the Carmelites in Lipa's every everything. The nuns elected and buried the diaries, petals and prayer cards, but would not bear to watch the images of the Mediatrix, as they had it up to crap and just used but it among the debris in a hedge.

It would be hidden for the next 40 years until Gaviola gave permission for the statue to be temporarily displayed in 1991. The archbishop was named the diocese that the image be restored to public veneration and installed in the side chapel of the convent church where it remains to this day.

Blighted lives

Apart from the many miraculous healings and conversions that were ignored and the cruel rumors that the apparitions were a hoax formed on the public by the nuns to raise money to build a church, there are the human stories and blighted lives of the main protagonists that are incidental to the apparitions.

Auxiliary Bishop Alfredo Obviar, the spiritual director of Carmel Lipa, was eventually removed and reinstated to limbo until he was demoted and re-appointed to the diocese of Lucena.

Divine founded the congregation of the Missionary Catechists of St. Therese and is acknowledged as the founder of the order but was lifted up to the Canon of the Saints and has officially passed the first step in the process toward sainthood.

His tomb and museum in Lucena is the site of many pilgrimages and a number of miracles have been attributed to his intercession.

Brenda, who allowed the apparitions to be publicized and let the Mediatrix to be venerated, was stripped of all his administrative duties, remaining a bishop in name only.

Though he had used his family's wealth to rebuild the churches and schools of war-torn Lipa, he was falsely accused of misbehaving the war reparations and finances of the diocese. He lived in exile in his Ilocos home, reduced to selling tobacco leaves to augment his family income.

The priests of Carmel, Mother Cecilia Hidden, was murdered in mysterious circumstances and accused like a scallawag until. She is said to have prophesied that at her death, the events of the Lipa apparitions would again be reopened and devotion to the Mediatrix restored.

Castillo has survived all the discussions and humiliations in which she was subjected. The nuns from the congregation resulted in her long illness, requiring her to live at the University of Santo Tomas hospital for long periods of time. She eventually had to subsequently leave the convent as she failed to complete the required length of stay for a novice.

Discreet silence

She worked at the Bishop-ric Church in Barlucas and assisted Fr. Leo English with the publication of the now widely used Tagalog-English dictionaries. The low-profile girl she was, even the newspaper her mother exclaiming tension.

She has done received a few other messages and experienced showers of petals in her home and at the side chapel of Carmel Lipa, but has maintained a discreet silence about it.

Gaviola and Arguelles have allowed Castillo to speak publicly about the apparitions and there are also a number of accounts detailing the healing of some people that she has prayed over. However, now that the new commission has convened, she has thought it prudent to remain from speaking or being too publicly visible.

In her 80s, Castillo has been given the grace of living to see the traditions reappear altered and a resurgence of devotion to her "beautiful baby."

Atienza: LGU has last say on Mindoro mining project

By Alexis Papa
and Leila B. Salaverria

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF Mindoro has the last say on the controversial nickel project on the island, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza said on Friday.

Atienza said issuance of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in favor of Intex Resources on Oct. 14 was just one requirement for the project to commence and that the local government must agree to the project.

"The project is still in the exploratory stage. There is no actual mining yet. It is up to the local government if they allow the project to push through," Atienza said.

He explained that he could not arbitrarily cancel the ECC given to Intex "because we have laws to follow. Besides, what message would we be sending to investors if I did that?"

But Atienza stressed that if the project is proven to cause a catastrophe and did not involve public consultations, as claimed by those opposed to the project, then the ECC would be "automatically void" in accordance with law.

Hunger strike

Last week, Mindoro governor-elect Alfonso Umali and three members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (provincial board) began a hunger strike in front of the DENR's Quezon City office to protest the issuance of the ECC to Intex, saying the project would damage the island's environment and displace around 20,000 members of the Mangyan tribe.

On Thursday, Atienza held a dialogue with the residents and Mindoro officials, but much of the dialogue with Governor-elect Umali's group, Atienza supposedly the ECC for 90 days, saying Intex would have to prove it conducted public consultations and the processes should prove the project covers a protected watershed area.

The protesters, however, said they would continue with their hunger strike. They said Atienza's order did not consider a 25-year mining moratorium in parts of the island and that there was still a chance Intex could secure an ECC and get the go-ahead for the project. They called on Atienza to cancel the ECC immediately.

"We find DENR disrespectful of our local autonomy for not recognizing our province's existing 25-year mining moratorium issued in 2002," said Mindoro Oriental Gov. Arnan Panaligan in a statement yesterday.

Revocation, not suspension

"Our call for the revocation on the Intex ECC should not be watered down to a suspension of the ECC. We will further exhaust all legal and all extra-legal means to fight for our local autonomy to protect the living rights of our people," said Mindoro Occidental Gov. Josele Arcega.

Fr. Edu Gariguez of the Mangyan Mission, who joined the hunger strike, said the suspension, not revocation, of Intex's ECC "reflects the government's bias for the mining company over the interests of the people of Mindoro."

"Our protest has already escalated to the level of putting our lives at stake. We will not leave the grounds of the DENR and we are committed to continue our protest until the Intex ECC is revoked," Gariguez said.

Atienza joined Fr. Robert Reyes will lead a "run-walk" at the Quezon Memorial Circle today to show his solidarity with the hunger strikers.

The strikers also received support from Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who said he did not resist the nickel mining activities to destroy the province's resources.

Toxic waste

"Mining is not per se bad. But I'm supporting the stand of the local government units and those opposed to mining in Mindoro because [mining operations] can get the area of the watershed. Where resources would be depleted and whatever amount would be left would be affected by wastes," Pimentel said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum.

But town officials have maintained that environmental studies and public consultations were conducted. The consultations were held in October 2008 in Victoria, and on two separate dates in May 2009 in Pola and Mansalayan, they said.

Asorin said the DENR directive to Intex showed "that the Aquino government heard the IEC native cries if the Norwegian firm did not have the proper documents.

"We are saddened that they issued the ECC on Oct. 14, 2009, even though the documents of Intex Resources were incomplete. Why did they issue the ECC when they are only now asking for documentation? That's against the law... there must be prior consultation," Asorin said.

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JOLLIBEE CHICKEN BARBECUE!
Bida ang sarap!
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INQUIRER
VOL. 24 NO. 307

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Freedom to dream

WHEN NEWS BROKE THAT CANDY QUIMPO-Gourley, former desk person of this paper in the 1990s, was going to be published by David Fickling Books (an imprint of renowned publisher Random House), the country was thrilled. Her novel for children, "Tall Story"—about an eight-foot tall Filipino boy, Nando and his Filipino-English sister, Andi, and which the author describes as a tale "about basketball, culture clash and belonging. [It's] funny and sad, [magical] at the same time"—will, it is hoped, prosper and gain the readership it deserves.

Equally noteworthy is that a Filipino publisher, Carlos Hermanos, will be releasing the book domestically in the coming months. Rayvi Santos, manager of Cachio, is of the opinion that "getting her [Quimpo-Gourley] read here would benefit not only the growing field of Philippine fiction, which till has hopes many young Filipinos."

We tend to equate the young, not with books, but video games and social media. No one, however, who has been touched by the Harry Potter phenomenon can resist not to assume that books are turns (scope in either for kids or young adults. Indeed, the success of another series, "Twilight," was enough to spark a political cause célèbre in this country.

The decision for the vampire novel "Twilight" led to such a redoubt of importers that the Bureau of Customs and Department of Finance saw an opportunity for additional income, even if it means the country turning its back on international agreements and benefiting local laws. In the end, President Macapagal-Arroyo had to intervene as Filipino book lovers demonstrated People Power, and international institutions politely warned if the Philippines ought to go down the road of being a rogue state.

In her last State of the Nation Address the President formally recommended the country to being a dutiful member of the family of civilized nations, except for some fine print on the part of her officials. Bookstores and importers continue to enjoy the privileges conferred on them by law and statute, while the DOF and BOC continue to impose illegal import duties on ordinary citizens, who lack congressmen, senators or an organized business to lobby on their side.

The result is ordinary Filipino readers who receive books whether as gifts or from the hard-earned money of their parents or from themselves, are inordinately and, quite often, arbitrarily taxed by Customs.

Still, in a sense, that is popularism—in particular, a myopism of that population, the young—hungers for books to the extent that bureaucrats sense opportunities for extortion is a good sign. It shows that the potential for a reading society is there; for a reading society is a healthy one. And how much better it will be, if among the books consumed by young Filipino readers are the products of the imaginations and values of their compatriots.

We can only look forward to news, rumoured by Harry Potter and the "Twilight" cast of characters, to add to their normal assignments the characters created by our own culture, our own writers, speaking of values and ideals that are our own, too.

As societies like ours ponder the challenges of the new century, it's well to remember what so many experts are finding out: in an age of technology and globalization, it's imagination, it's culture, it's art and music, that provide the creative spark required for true development and human happiness.

As the nation approaches the holiday season, with its hopes and, we believe, an insistence on compassion and values born of this year's losses and tragedies, let's hope we take counsel in making this holiday one not of anniversary dreams, but of a liberating indigestation: the kind that is inspired by wholesome books.

Safer world

WHEN CROWDS TORE DOWN THE BERLIN WALL 20 YEARS ago ... few participants in that joyously chaotic celebration of freedom foresaw the consequences. Not by seeing the moment they made history... The 1945 division of Germany and of Europe was removed from the map. The way opened to the end of the cold war, the advance of democracy and free markets into eastern Europe, and the enlargement of the European Union.

FOREIGN COMMENT

Two decades later, it is clear that the world won huge political and economic benefits from the collapse of communism. Despite today's difficulties with global terrorism, the Middle East and economic crisis, the end of superpower rivalry has made the world safer, freer and richer. ...

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The fifth wheel

SEPARATE OPINION

Raguiam A. Cruz

IN THIS COUNTRY, THE CHOICE OF HOUSEmates runs to left to the presidential nominee, whose decision is affirmed by his party out of respect for him. If he has no party or the party folds its convention, the standard bearer usually chooses his secondary candidate, as in the case of Senator Jejomar Binay who was picked by Joseph Estrada, and Mar Roxas, who accepted Manny Aquino's invitation to be his vice presidential partner. Manuel Villar, who is also a major player for the post in Malacañang, has finally made his choice and welcomed Loren Legarda as his running mate.

Loren has her own political platform which she says coincides with Villar's program of governance. Moreover, she is prettier than all her rivals. She now has the chance to succeed as accidental president like the ascension of Manuel L. Quezon in 1944, Manuel A. Roxas in 1946, Junior Magsaysay in 1957, and Joseph Estrada in 2001. Loren missed a similar opportunity in 2004, when her presidential partner, Fernando Poe Jr. might have won and subsequently died in office.

Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro, the candidate by acclamation of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD ruling party, recently chose Edu Manzano, another media personality, to replace Secretary Rodolfo Fresa who resigned as the original presidential running mate. After more than three months of judicious selection, or so they say, Gibo finally picked Manzano as his second in command if they are elected.

GMA's cohorts have reacted with jubilation, saying that as a star celebrity, Edu is sure to draw crowds of supporters ready to vote for their handsome candidate. His lack of political experience will not last again from the bigwig members of the party in power who will be his major political endorsers. He and his big brother Gibo will be strangers in the manifold atmosphere of Malacañang where their questions will be under wraps.

The critics in the opposition are not all impressed. On the contrary they are depressed that another figure from the entertainment world has chosen to claim the attention of the voters on serious matters affecting their immediate and the future. President Estrada was no President Reagan. Even Congress has been influenced by figures better qualified as entertainers. One of them, in fact, does not participate in the deliberations of his colleagues but seats in the reading room nearby in case his vote is needed by his party mates on a pork barrel matter.

The expected majority of Manzano are his fans, who admire his success with the ladies as a gauge of his competence in government affairs. They see him as a senior Gigi, with brawn instincts, a kind voice and style in case of a tie, and no more. It has been described by John Nance Garner, who was Franklin D. Roosevelt's first vice president, as no more attractive than a pitcher of warm spit. John C. Calhoun was the first vice president to resign followed by Spiro Agnew upon the filing of criminal charges against him. Harry S. Truman had to take over upon President Roosevelt's death in 1945, and found life in the White House the most exciting office in the world.

In our Constitution, "the Vice President may be appointed as a member of the Cabinet and such appointment requires no confirmation." Diosdado Macapagal from the Liberal Party became vice president in 1957 but was not appointed to the Cabinet by Nacionalista President Carlos P. Garcia. When President Macapagal did win campaign all over the country and defeated Garcia's reelection bid in 1961, Pilipino Macapagal's own daughter became vice president in 1998, Estrada appointed her to a minor post in his Cabinet. She replaced him when he was removed in 2001, and in 2007 relieved him of his conviction for plunder and his penalty of reclusion perpetua.

All the senior offices held de Castro in capitving now have been given Cabinet rank, for which he requires no confirmation. As Vice President, he has chosen not to run for presidential and, for that matter, even just reelection. The seems to prefer the supervision of the construction of his mansion in Dasmariñas Village as his more engrossing function.

The proposed revision of the present Constitution to replace the present system with a parliamentary government under a ceremonial president does not seem to offer enough importance or incentive to a vice president, if he is to be provided for at all in the new charter. This is the reason why the present candidates for the second highest office in the land are very much against the plan to eliminate it from the government framework.

The present candidates for vice president in the 2010 election are not, we might say, plum pickers in the game of politics but are important people not easily disposed of or dismissed. Loren Legarda has her own following, positive and by winning the women votes. Mar Roxas is president of the reinvigorated Liberal Party. Jejomar Binay is ambassador in Makati. And Edu Manzano, for all his affable conformity to the ruling (?) party, has a will of his own as he has a celluloid hero. These are the people who will succeed their masters from the revised Constitution.

Confidence

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A MAN INTO A wrong body rides. Asked by his friend if he was not bothered or ashamed of it, his confidence reply was, "Why should I? I remained his (Pinoy) persona kasi, no?"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lks. 18, 22-27) Jesus confidently answers all the questions hooked at him by Pontius Pilate. What made him so cool and confident enough it all? Truth. Truth was on his side, so he had no fears and nothing to hide. A truthful person is confident and free. A person full of lies is fearful and trembling deep inside.

* * *

"Into the light, and the shadow is behind you. Turn your back to the light, and the shadow will always be in front of you." Knowing the truth and accepting the truth is the best road toward true confidence and freedom.

* * *

With the elections coming, notice how many people are suddenly changing their colors. Mounting into whatever is bonafide and customized? Notice how many people are climbing over the fence to go to the other side for safety and survival? For some people, truth and principles are gone as soon as the prospect of money and power are dangled before their eyes. Cheap.

* * *

How many of us take the road of compromise and spread our whole lifetime vacillating between half and full commitment, ready to smell our convictions for anyone and very one to lean but hold up and do otherwise when no one is looking or listening? The seat of our values must be deeper than what this world offers. We are not saints, but at least, we can be, and should be, truthful.

* * *

Speaking of confidence, there is a story I heard about a guy who was so shy that when he would be asked on the elevator, "What floor?" he would shyly respond, "Sh, 6th floor please... If it's not out of the way!" Come to think of it: how many of us are so crippled by what others think or say about us? How many of us are so fixated on our "image"? The bottom line is what and who we are to God, and what God says about us.

* * *

I was a very shy boy when I was growing up. I was so self-conscious, and lacked self-confidence. Somewhere along the way, I realized the need for self-improvement, so I tried overcoming. The turning point came when I stopped trying so hard, and I just began to enjoy myself. It was when I learned more on the needs of others that I began to forget my own needs. In trying to make others happy, my life found new direction and meaning. I found myself. So to say, when I lost myself, I found it and with self-confidence. It had to continue in a sense of mission. Without mission, life and all its blessings can be awfully selfish and boring. So, what gives us confidence? That our lives, thoughts, words and actions are in the deepest and for the service of something or someone greater than ourselves. Our name, it is a cause. For us, it is our King, Christ the King.

* * *

We all will face our King someday. What will we tell Him then? What will He tell us then? Yes, we all have a mission to accomplish in life. The mission is non-transferable and non-negotiable. And the mission is not unfamiliar. We all have a mission to accomplish and this cannot be bypassed nor postponed.

* * *

I received this text message from Pastor Boy Galvante yesterday: "It's the 5th anniversary of my first Holy Communion today. Please pray for my holiness and greatness of heart like that of Blessed Mary!" Wow. We remember birthday, wedding and death anniversaries, but how many of us remember the day we first received Jesus in Holy Communion, and the anniversaries were along with it?

* * *

Inviting you to the 22nd Eucharistic Congress with the theme "Celebrating the Eucharist in the Year of the Priests," on Nov. 28, 2009, Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the G. Joseph Adoration Convent of the Holy Sisters in 71 Kennedy Ave., Quezon City. This year's speakers are Fr. Apollinario Ma. Vitug, OP, Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, DD, Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian, DVM, DD, will lead the procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 2 p.m. and will also talk about the Eucharist as the pledge and sign of hope for a priestly people. The holy sacrifice of the Mass will be at 4:30 p.m. to be followed by a dinner. For reservations: Stephanie, DD, of the Diocese of Cubao. Free registration, snacks and lunch. For details call 722-0026/9916-4869/949. Come, let us adore our Eucharistic King!

* * *

Jaemar Monasis, invites you to a lay forum on "How is handle parents with behavioral problems" on Nov. 28 at Janaen Hall. Drive the long seminary, from 9 a.m. till 12 noon. Free TEA and cholesterol screening after the lecture. Please call 571-2262, 311-6866 or 0917-4367949.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that you are the source of all the confidence I need in life. Amen.

Overwhelming victory

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

THE RECENT PULSE ASIA SURVEY SHOWS Noynoy Aquino gathering 44 percent of the national vote and Manny Villar, 19 percent. These numbers affirm an earlier (Feb) poll boasting similar figures. The survey results can be said to exemplify the discussion to be upon us (Rev. 8).

Overwhelming no-ask. In that column, I opined that an overwhelming victory in favor of the winning presidential tier (whoever he might be) is the best and most practical way to overcome failure of elections (recall, failure of proclamation for two days) and to minimize (no-ask) controversies. If the margin of victory is small, the campaign gloves are off (whether intended or not) would not lead to a failed election.

At that time, pre-election and recent surveying, say two or three million votes will put nobody in a winning spot. Even if all those two or three million votes were added to Villar's 7.6 million and declared four-square 17.6 million, the latter would surely still be subject to proclamation. To this, I stated during 2004 that I was among those who joined in promulgating a post-voting the Poe-Arroyo figures.

Antidote for crippling flaws. Overwhelming victory is also an antidote to automated cheating frauds, a subject I took up last Nov. 15. In the 2004 presidential poll, the opposition estimated that the "Hello, Garci" recordings and scandals subtracted one million votes from Fernando Poe Jr. and added the same to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Neither this claim of fraud nor the extent of the cheating was publicly proven because the Supreme Court (acting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal) dismissed the protest of Poe due to his untimely death. But assuming the claim to be true and assuming further that similar fraud happens next year, the one or two million digging

house would not negate a Noynoy victory.

In fact, I think the most supports—knowing the insurmountable load of Noynoy in the survey—would be discouraged from attempting any gimmick or fraud (whether intended or not) would not lead to a failed election.

Cost of elections. Opponents and even unwitting supporters or those without who will not notify it a result, from if all those two or three million votes were added to Villar's 7.6 million and declared four-squares 17.6 million, the latter would surely still be subject to proclamation. To this, I stated during 2004 that I was among those who joined in promulgating a post-voting the Poe-Arroyo figures.

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**Overwhelming victory is also the solution to an unsolicited, not-to-be-done—like the so-called "caretaker government" lambasted by then national security adviser, now Commission on Human Rights Secretary Norberto Gonzales. I am appalled that after advocating such patently illegal plot, Gonzales could be entrusted with a supervisory position over human rights matters. A supervisor cannot be one who is "acting" capacity, he need not pass the Commission on Appointments to enable him to use the vast powers of that office to oppress shadowy plans.

To my mind, Gonzales' befuddling pronouncements was unacceptable for a person of the nation's executives in the coming polls. But to me, he is overwhelming victory would be the safest reverse plot. I think the Armed Forces of the Philippines would not embrace anything constitutionally abhorrent. In past crises, the AFP had always sided with the people.

Technical solutions. Overwhelming victory through the best and most practical way of combining all sorts of election discrepancies, should not lull us into neglecting technical solutions to automated fraud. To my place for reference to digital devices, Comelec IT consultant Rowen S. Torres called me to clarify that the Red Lido...the software company contracted by the poll body to certify the source code—is a constant touch with

Comments are welcome at thinkpan@pangan.law.upd.edu.ph

Could this happen here?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF AS A COMELEC COMMISSIONER MAINtains, there is no need to accredit Ang Ladlad, which seeks to represent gays and lesbians in Congress is part of the party-list system, because there are already quite a number of gay and lesbian Congressmen, then this body might as well revoke the accreditation given to parties uniting representatives of the marginalized.

After all, there is already a large number of women in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, and we already have had two women presidents.

But Ang Ladlad was denied entry for supposedly secret which deserve automatic accreditation in the party-list system, based on the supposition that while women are not marginalized in terms of numbers (being one-half of the population), they, as a sector, are still subject to discrimination and are qualified in terms of representation in political and decision-making bodies.

It is to such "sexual minorities," men and women alike, by virtue of their sexual orientation and preferences, have been marginalized not just in terms of political power but even in terms of social standing and relationships within the rest of society.

The good Comelec commissioners may have thought that Ang Ladlad's application for political and social recognition when they scuttled it. Ang Ladlad's application. But here's an example of how marginalization carries taboos, resistance, and exploitation of homosexuals and lesbians have persisted in many regions. The passages are taken from "The Samuel Beckett: A New History of Sexual Desire" by British journalist Lawrence Osborne.

BOYS nonetheless stayed set out with almost greater ardor to engineer trysts...In the Soviet Union, prostitutes even took to camps called prophylactoria to have themselves sterilized, while in the Third Reich—didn't one hardhide collected statistics from something "disorders" to prevent it a pharmaceutical...**The Nazis set up Lebensborn or Source of Life maternity homes** for SS officers in the SS journalist Gunter d'Alquen published that they provided an opportunity for "pre- and extra-marital matches of superior blood

to give birth under relaxing conditions"; in order to hasten the illegitimate children of SS officers...Indeed, the Nazi regime was the most encouraged illegitimate children and was probably the only European state aggressively to keep public licenses upon single-parent families during the war. Illegitimate children were given immediate state nationality and were placed in guardians. Christian clergy was swept under the carpet in order to let bishops have its way.

Thus, whereas the Catholic Church had branded homosexuality as the work of the devil, Gnostic tyrannies, the Nazis condemned it simply because it wasted sperm...Homosexuals in the camps were rarely tortured as they had been at the behest of the theologians, for whereas the latter wanted to purify the homosexual's soul, the former simply wanted his semen. The Dutch Bureau of Statistics figures show that they were controlling two hundred copies a year right up until 1940...And even because a worship of nature and hiding exhaustion the cultivation of the body, letting his personal passions roll, a new kind of personality began to emerge, one that gathered it all to itself to the finish of the old. The old manners gave itself to survival.

* * *

Pill can see this in an unpleasant example. The Soviet state fostered Stalinism, a former communist in the 1930s, but with a distinctive account of the sexual mores of the Soviet Union during a season of transforming crisis.

Forced breeding was practiced routinely in the Ming, just as in Germany. But even worse than forced breeding was the hatred for it used to justify the mass camp-murders. There, homosexuality was used to destroy the millions, and in a strange and unique way.

The Soviet homosexual was raped by certain homosexual acts in prisons and then, against his will, labeled a "pederast." What this did was to destroy his social status. He became an untouchable. If another convict so much as sat next to him, he too would become a pederast, a "degraded." His disease would be handed on even by the simple exchange of a cigarette.

* * *

AS ONE occasion, Malaysian writer, on a camp near Kharkov, a delivery of anchovies created a riot among the prisoners, because the anxious soldiers, pushing and kicking their way in the front of the queue, succeeded in snatching the fish. Then, as one prisoner described it "they threw them at us! Because no one else dared eat them."

Dilemma. Immoral sexual conduct is an ancient condition in prisons. But during the Stalinist period sexual repression began to take the form of a ritualized violence which had for its intention the utter destruction of the individual's sense of purity—a curse of purity which Christianity had created but which the cult of biology could not tolerate. Sexual purity, in the Soviet context, evolved out as a sexual being with the social or lackeroons, perhaps some sediment of bourgeois erotic sentiment, and was then gradually annihilated by the camp system. Sexual purity, as such, was a dangerous illusion as the supposed existence of Sappho? And even as late as the 1980s, the Soviet Medical Encyclopedia gave no definition of lesbianism since it merely gave the geographical location of the biblical isle of Lesbos.

Obama's Vietnam syndrome

WORLD VIEW

Jonathan Schell

BOB RAYES—THERE CAN BE NO MILITARY SOlution to the war in Afghanistan, only a political one. Writing that sentence, I realized that I was with members. As US President Barack Obama pondered how to do about the war, who wants to expose a point that's been made thousands of times? Is there anyone on earth who does not know that a military solution is impossible? Is there anyone in the "hearts and minds" of the people? The American public has known this since its defeat in Vietnam.

Americans are accustomed to thinking that their country's bitter experience in Vietnam taught certain lessons about the limits of military principles. But historical documents recently made available reveal something much stranger. Most of those lessons were in fact lessons—through our publicly admitted—that the US could not win a war.

That difference is important. If the Vietnam disaster was launched in full awareness of the "lessons," why should those lessons in any more effective this time? It would seem that some other kind of lesson is needed.

Why did President Lyndon Johnson's administration move the United States into a war that looked like a lost cause even to its own officials? One possible explanation is that Johnson was more thoroughly frightened by America's right wing, led by Sen. Mike Mansfield to withdraw from Vietnam, he explained that he did not want another "Chinese in Vietnam."

In other words, Johnson's national security advisers, McGeorge Bundy, wrote that "the policy of damage to Truman and Acheson from the left of China never became more extensive came to believe that we could and should have done more than we did in prevention." This is precisely what would happen now if we should be seen to be the first to quit in Iraq or, to another means, Bundy argued that security could be viewed by "all anti-communist Vietnamese" was "betrayed." One might call this the "anti-appeasement" precedent enough "Vietnam as an obsession."

Did Johnson's advisers push the country into a disastrous war in order to win an election—or, to

be more exact, to avoid losing one? Johnson, Bundy and the others of course believed the "domino" theory which says that one country "falling" to communism would cause others to fall.

What is uncanny about the current debate about Afghanistan is the degree to which it displays continuity with the Vietnam debates, and even continuity with the Vietnam debates.

To most Americans, Vietnam taught one big lesson. "Don't do it again." But the US military, Vietnam taught a host of little lessons, adding up to "Do it better."

Indeed, the military has in effect internalized the arguments of the peace movement of the 1960s. It insists and stands are the key to success local people. Frontline procedures are a problem, or there is a misunderstanding. If corruption is fueling the Afghanistan government, "governance" can be found. Obama did in recent comments following President Hamid Karzai's fraud-ridden reelection.

The domestic political reasons of Democratic politicians remained down on the precedent. George McGovern, the Democratic presidential candidate in 1972, proposed to end the war, which by then was unpopular, yet lost the election in a landslide. That electoral loss seemed to confirm Johnson's earlier fears: those who pull out of wars lose elections. That lesson justified in the Democratic Party's front-drug fear of "McGovernism" that continues to this day.

There is understandable continuity between George W. Bush's and Obama's policies. Barry Thurston's administration for "losing" China, and for supposed "appeasement" and even "treason" and Dick Cheney's and Karl Rove's attacks would

Jonathan Schell is a fellow at The Nation Institute and teaches a course on the nuclear dilemma at Yale University. He is the author of "The Seventh Seconds: The New Dawn of Nuclear Danger."

March to mayhem

IT IS NOVEMBER IN MANILA, DAYS BEFORE THE DEADline for filing candidacies. On Monday, Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada (with 11 other senators) signed Resolution 1472, absolving Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. of ethical charges in connection with the C-5 Road extension project, long before a committee report even officially released by the Senate.

On Tuesday, Senator Villar's office confirmed he had received an invitation to join the Nacionalista party as a guest candidate. "We have the same stand on important issues."

On Wednesday, Estrada pulled out the signature from Resolution 1472, because of the timing of the resolution's release. "You know, people might say that I accepted the offer of the Villars a guest candidacy in exchange for my signature of that particular resolution."

On Friday, Senator Estrada pulled out from the Nacionalista slate, "because a lot of people are speculating that I am turning my back from my father's Partido ng Masang Pilipino." Estrada says that he continues to "value" Villar as a "friend."

"People might say," says Estrada. "People are speculating." Odd remarks for a man who seems to have no compunction about what "people might say" about his political maneuverings. Perhaps he does not feel "people might say" there is anything wrong with making decisions and changing decisions of surprising import based on personal whim, especially decisions that supposedly mandate some personal conviction. Of course he has the right to change his mind, of course Villar is "a friend," but he still withdrew his support anyway, because the politically motivated resolution he signed now appears politically motivated.

Estrada is not the only politician afflicted with abrupt epiphanies.

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

On 2010 Sen. Loren Legarda condemned Joseph "Erap" Estrada, cried at what she believed was a travesty of justice during his failed impeachment hearing, and walked away false at the head of a flock rushing Erap.

In 2004, she ran for vice president with the Erap nominee, Fernando Poe Jr. with Erap's support.

In 2008, as senator, she supported the ouster of then Senate President Manuel Villar, following the C-5 double-entendre controversy and removed her name as co-author of the joint-pass in the Senate probe. Last Monday, she signed Resolution 1472, absolving Villar long before a committee report had been released on the probe, following the same sentiment that she would run as his vice president.

Marcos' son Bongbong also took shelter under the government Villar banner, passing out t-shirts as part of his campaign, who had long been campaigning for compensation to human rights victims during martial law. Villar says nothing we can with this. "It's known that we each agree on all issues, we just need to keep this in mind. All of us, the important thing is our love for the poor, our desire to eradicate poverty and the need to unify all sectors."

But his position on agreed with Villar's statement stating that as long as all candidates under the MP agree and that the foundation of their candidacy is helping the poor, then they are "committed and ready to fight the fight."

The same grand reformist was reiterated by Sen. Noynoy Aquino and his Liberal Party vice former Sen. Ralph Recto, as administrations endorsed and thrown apologies—an odd phenomenon in a party that is running by banish the evil trend of political politics. Recto had was under the administration ticket in 2007 and lost, and now claims he was invited into the Aquino-Roxas fold. That LP's Jesgo Osmeña III took a presidential stand against vote-rigging the former secretary-general, and his supporter only apparently made in the dust in the party of democratic reforms—gives new meaning to the showbiz coy adultress. How Osmeña is out. Just the party is still united. After all, there always a party whose main goal is "addressing poverty and decency in government."

The administration party suddenly has no ally in the Pardo, there's nary, pulled in television from Lito Morrison, administration consultant former Gilbert Teodoro once claims they are still strong and united to fight against power "by all means that are consistent with the rights of their human rights, he said he would address the four faces of poverty: poverty of the mind, poverty of the pocket, poverty of the environment and the poverty of relationships."

And so the house-building and chairs-switching go on, with little loss of face. There are no loyalties, there are no ideas, because no matter what "people might say," they are determined to a grand reminiscence to end poverty and bring back good governance, all in the service of the Filipino nation.

It is November, and carols are bidding entry in shopping mall elevators. It is the season of beaming cheeks and bad pyrotechnics, of neon strip glowing among cracked concrete bridges, of cold-rain tailgates in pale wind, of gleam-bright cooking-hot logs in plastic beds in Quezon Avenue traffic. Morning there been church Christmas soundtrack, while many are robbed accordingly with every die closer to the holidays. A taxi driver was held up for his watch and belt, and a Filipino-Chinese father with a bullet in his head carried home a block away from Chinatown by Maynila, after his and his family's money in the hospital.

It is possible, at this time, for a 46-year-old housewife to be shot in the face two weeks from her home by a teenager for the 1990 in his handbag. Merry Christmas, dark. The bulb, wasn't your step, don't walk in the dark.

It is November, and this is Manila, slapped by wind, soaked by rain, scrapping mud off baby shoes while tethered, soundtrack with news of 20 IO candidates playing musical chairs. Watch them dance, hear them sing. Blah, and the dessert change. Blah, and the name brands. That's three days to Christmas, a hundred story fire to the ground next day, but the blinking lights, love, the beating drum. This is the promise of 2010.

THEY SAID

Wholesale

"In a spellbinding six qualifications for the vice presidency simply because of one of my predecessors, my declaration virtually made a wholesale condemnation of them to the entertainment industry is being unfit and incapable of providing competent leadership."

—The president Gloria Arroyo

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TALK of the TOWN

Litor Jose V. Sarmiento Jr.

Shoemakers reeling from mustard-oil law

By DJ Yap

TROPICAL STORM "ONDOY" DEVASTATED MUCH OF THE FAMOUS SHOEMAKING industry in Marikina City, leaving many hand-to-mouth shoemakers mired in muddy rainwater and unemployment. But even before Ondoy inundated Metro Manila, the multimillion-peso industry had been groping for breath against another enemy in the form of a stinking liquid called mustard oil. Shoemakers in Marikina are up in arms over Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) Resolution No. 6, which classifies any toluene-based contact cement (locally known as "rugby") with-sus at least five percent mustard oil content as an (illegal) drug. Adding mustard oil to rugby is aimed at making all commercially available solvents repugnant to rugby addicts, especially street children.

STREET CHILDREN sniff rugby in cubbies near the Ayala flyover connecting this city to Davao City. VILLAMOR BOOTY

A BIG (colorful) way of glue high levels to work in Barangka Bawagka, Marikina. (PHOTOS/INQ)

"It's really, really stupid," said Roger E. Po, director general of the Philippine Footwear Producers Society Inc., a nationwide organization of shoemakers.

"While we're not against the objective of protecting these rugby boys, pulling mustard oil into rugby is going to be very bad to the industry, especially to small hand-to-mouth shoemakers," he said.

Stench just too much

One morning in August, shoemaker Marlene Magbag sent off one of her workers on a trip to deliver sample shoe soles to a popular mall. But as the worker was about to load the boxes into the truck nearby, the driver stopped him.

"The stench was too much. The taxi driver refused the load," Magbag said. The driver eventually agreed to take the shoe boxes, but only if they were safely tucked away in the trunk.

The stink in Magbag's products came from the mustard-oil infused rugby that had been used to bind them.

For Po, this law that seeks to discourage rugby sniffing is narrowly threatening the local shoe industry, exposing workers to health hazards and driving up production costs.

Reconsider position

Po's organization, with a membership of 65 major shoe manufacturers in several cities, has been trying to convince the DDB to reconsider its position through various pleaded letters, but its efforts have so far been in vain.

"It's so hard to get through to them. They talked only to the rugby manufacturers but not to the end users who will be using the rugby," Po said.

Some of his complaints were detailed in a letter to Edgar C. Sabiniano, DDB executive director, in the form of questions:

- How was it resolved the additional cost?
- Have you considered that mustard oil is carcinogenic and causes eye irritation that makes the shoemaker shed tears and unstable [sic] work?
- Have you considered that the industry is still a cottage industry with 90 percent on fixed-to-month basis, nearly not even registered?
- How many end-user groups were really consulted?

Caught by surprise

In Marikina, one of the last bastions of local shoe manufacturing, the implementation of the rugby ban took almost everyone by surprise, said Leo Arriesgado Santiago, head of the Marikina Cultural, Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotions Office.

"Everyone was caught unaware. We only found out when the small shoemakers could no longer find any glues that would stick them rugby. We were the first to find out about this law because the shoemakers were the first to feel its impact," she said.

By the time the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency began rally implementing the law, segments of the industry had begun panicking.

"The shoe industry has enough troubles already from expensive materials to compete, too, from China, and now this," Santiago said.

City council resolution

The impact of the new regulations on the local shoemaking industry was such that the Marikina City Council was prompted to issue in July a resolution demanding outright the "immediate suspension" of DDB Regulation 6 (series of 2009), which currently bars manufacturers for the implementation of the banns.

"Both DDB regulations are deemed detrimental and could wipe out our beloved shoe industry, killing small businesses, employers and literally robbing the families of our residents of their means to earn a living," the July 16 resolution said.

But local laws said the DDB, although agreeing to continue studying the matter and the objections raised by trade sectors, refused to suspend the implementation of the law.

Effect of ban

In an Aug. 26 letter to Santiago, Galvante noted that since the regulations had been passed by the board and had met all the requirements for its effectivity, it "defines the laws and effect of a law."

He added, however, that the DDB "remains open and fair and remains considering other measures in its efforts to curb the problem of the abuse of organic solvent products."

Galvante added that the agency's technical working group was also evaluating the possibility of reducing the mustard-oil content requirement from five percent to three percent.

In the meantime, however, in the table enamour, small shoemakers like Magbag, whose small business can only afford two meals a day, are starting to feel the effects of the law.

Neighbors complain

Magbag said her workers had used the mustard-infused rugby for roughly but could not afford the smell.

"Your eyes will water and your chest will tighten. My house is above my shop and when I awoke up, the smell was overpowering. Even the neighbors started to complain," she said.

She eventually had to source her rugby from a local retailer with a license from the DDB. "For every purchase we need to show a barangay clearance," she said.

Santiago said the regulation would fall on already dying industry.

He noted that the DDB could not even provide statistics of rugby sniffers to contrast with the numbers of people who would be affected negatively by the implementation of the regulations.

Number of rugby sniffers

Santiago said her office conducted its own survey on rugby sniffers from various agencies and found that based on figures from the National Capital Region Police Office, only 1,200 persons were apprehended for sniffing rugby from 2006 to 2009.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development's numbers are even smaller: 300 juvenile delinquents caught sniffing rugby.

A separate survey of rugby apprehensions from the Barbosa, Barrow, Southern and Manila Police Stations showed that only 413 were caught for rugby addiction from 2006 to 2009, Santiago said.

300,000 workers

By contrast, there are "more than 2,500 firms producing footwear nationwide, with over 60,000 workers in their direct employ," based on a study on Marikina's shoemaking industry by management Prof. Rhinnels A. Bonoan, Santiago said.

Po had his own rough estimate of the total labor force in the shoemaking industry: between 200,000 and 300,000.

Santiago said it was a shame that the DDB was so focused on the problem of rugby sniffing that it failed to see the bigger picture: that it did not consider the far-reaching consequences of the new regulations.

Furniture manufacturing

Outside the shoemaking industry, she said the efforts would be just in vain. It furniture manufacturing, restaurants and other similar industries that rely on rugby.

"Even a simple homemade silicon shoe repair company will find it hard to find any rugby to buy," she said.

Magbag said her small business is starting anew after Ondoy wiped out nearly all their machines and equipment. "We're running from records," she said.

She knows the hardship won't end soon. Then recently, she once gave six vouchers couple of meal-and-unlimited rugby sniffs to different friends. My workers wouldn't break it," she said.

What is mustard oil?

MUSTARD OIL, according to the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), is a viscous pale yellow oil that is obtained by distillation from mustard seeds, after the expression of the fatty oil and maceration with water.

It consists largely of a chemical allyl isothiocyanate, a volatile compound with pungent odor capable of inducing tears, the DDB said.

Mustard oil is obtained from seeds of the black and white (brown seed) mustard plants. In its crude state, black mustard oil (brassica nigra, light color) has a spicy odor and a pungent taste. When refined, it is pungent in odor and taste. White mustard oil (yellow color) has a fittingly pungent taste due to the allyl it contains.

Volatile, on the other hand, is a colorless, flammable, toxic liquid hydrocarbon solvents commonly used with a chemical formula of $C_6H_5CH_3$, which is the methyl derivative of benzene. Found in coal-tar light oil and in petroleum, it is obtained chiefly from the processing of petroleum fractions.

It is included in Table II of the 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. — DJ Yap and Inquirer Research

Dos and don'ts under new drugs board rules

Regulation No. 6 Series of 2009
(Classifying toluene-based contact cement products without at least five percent mustard oil as dangerous drugs)

- A [illegible]-based contact cement products important, manufactured, distributed, sold and/or handled shall include at least five-percent mustard oil.
- The provision of the additive shall be legibly printed on all product labels, cartons and containers.
- The chemical role of the mustard oil additive shall be maintained from the form of manufacture or importation of said products until the same are utilized [illegible]. The mustard oil's volatility shall be less than that of the toluene content of the products.
- Any violation of this regulation shall be penalized as the Section 32 of RA No. 9165, imprisonment of six months and one day to four years and a fine of P10,000 to P50,000.

Regulation No. 2 Series of 2009
(Implementing Guidelines for Board Regulation No. 6 Series of 2009)

- No person shall manufacture, distribute or retail the dangerous drug, except pursuant to duly accordance with the letters and conditions of a license granted by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).
- No person shall import, export, bring the dangerous drug into the Philippines except pursuant to and in accordance with any of the terms or conditions of the PDEA license and separate import permit, export permit, transit permit or redelivery permit, as the case may be.
- An applicant shall apply in writing to the PDEA for the grant of a license and specify the applicant's full name, business address, personal address, the drug sought to be classified, ostensibly arrangements, business premises and full clearance.
- A license shall remain in force for one year, unless earlier surrendered, suspended or revoked. A person shall cease to remain in force for such period as may be specified in it, which in the case of an import permit shall not exceed six months, and in the case of an export or transit permit shall not exceed three months.

License fees

- To import contact cement without mustard oil: P5,000
- To export: P5,000
- To manufacture: P10,000
- To distribute: P5,000
- To retail: P 3,000
- To store: P 3,000
- To possess for use: P500
- To possess for laboratory analysis: P500

Sale to individuals

- An individual who purchases the dangerous drug from a retailer shall be required to present a valid identification card and submit a barangay clearance for the particular purchase, duly issued by the chair of the barangay where the individual is residing, to the retailer.
- The barangay clearance shall indicate, among others, the quantity of the drug to be purchased, the purpose thereof and the type identification number of the individual. It shall be valid only for three days from date of issuance.

Sale to industrial users

- A holder of an LTPI license may procure the dangerous drug from a retailer by presenting a copy of the license duly certified to by its chief executive officer, managing partner, manager or proprietor, to the sales clerk/s in the retailer.

Prohibited sale to minors

- No retailer shall sell or deliver, with or without consideration, the dangerous drug quantity of the dangerous drug.

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

THE VILLAGE of Little Kilusugan in La Trinidad, Benguet, where 77 people died in a landslide, became accessible only through a wooden footbridge built after the disaster.

7 pigs for 77 people who died in landslide

By Dolmar Carino
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—More than thirty-seven days after a massive landslide buried the community of Little Kilusugan in Barangay Pugo here, residents met for the first time last week to remember their dead relatives and face the ceremony of finding new homes.

Seven pigs were butchered in a cleansing ritual for 77 people who were killed on Oct. 9 when a landslide triggered by heavy rains dumped by Typhoon "Pepeng" swamped the village.

Fire Insp. Ernesto Ibe, the marshalling (native priest) who led the ritual chants, said the gathering was more of an occasion to tell grieving relatives that life must go on and that bad luck was finally over.

"Some have to die. The dead are already gone. The living must accept that and they must continue to live," Ernesto, a 61-year-old Kankanaey from Barangay Ambiong here, told the Inquirer.

The master black pigs were butchered simultaneously. Seven different tools from house-hold equipment to pierce the pigs' hearts were used. The pieces of meat were cooked in seven different ways (large cooking vats).

Guests said the number of pigs offered in the ritual was a coincidence and did not have special meaning. "It just happened that there were seven pigs as we (e-)offered," he said.

But there must be one tool for each animal. "Once the tool gets bloodied, it should never be used again," he said.

Rev. Jonathan Oben of the Anglican Church, led Mass after the ritual. In his homily, Oben said death would find its true meaning only if the living would find ways to live.

As if taking their cue, at least 15 children were seen playing near the creek at the bottom of the village where most of the bodies were retrieved days after the Oct. 9 landslide.

John Dangliyen, a village leader, said despite orders from local government officials that Little Kilusugan must be abandoned, residents have decided to return and rebuild their homes.

"They have nowhere else to go. They were already ordered to leave the evacuation centers," he said.

The landslide triggered by the typhoon destroyed 34 houses in the village.

In a revelation, the residents said the landslide that buried Little Kilusugan came from the mountain along Longlong Road above the village.

Court orders Samar gov: Return ₱104M to province

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—SAMAR GOV Milagrosa Tan and other provincial officials were cited in contempt and ordered to return to the impoverished province's coffers at least P104 million paid to suppliers of medicines and various items in contracts that the court had ordered stopped.

The regional trial court based in Calbayog City ordered the bidding and award of the contracts stopped in two temporary restraining orders issued on July 7 and July 15.

Tan and the other officials, however, defied the July 15 TRO and ran only proceeded with the bidding and award of the contracts but the payments for suppliers as well.

The court, in its Nov. 10 order, fined Tan and the other officials P10,000 each for the contempt case.

Associate Judge Reynaldo Clemente, presiding judge of RTC Branch 31 in Calbayog City, issued his second TRO on July 15 to stop the bidding and award by the provincial government of P104 million worth of contracts to buy medicines, construction materials and other items from various suppliers.

Cited in contempt with Tan were Provincial Treasurer Bienvenido Inilawcin, Provincial Accountant Antonio Verona Jr., lawyer Asunancio Yong and Ariel Yhan. They are some of members of the pre-bids and awards committee (PBAC) of the provincial government.

Return the money

Tan and the rest were ordered to return to the provincial government of Samar, one of the country's poorest provinces, the P104 million in payments that were made in suppliers.

Calls made to Tan and the other officials for their statements were unanswered.

The contracts were questioned by Vice Gov. Jesus Relaya and the Concerned Citizens Action Power Organization, an anticorruption watchdog in Samar. They said the purchases of new medicines and other supplies were not covered by any allotment in the current provincial budget.

The bidding for the contracts was won by three firms—Geralyn Trading, based in Laoang, Allbay; Tacloban Pet Care Marketing, based in Tacloban City; Zbet Med Pharma, based in Pasig City; and Alice Hollow-medics, MCO Horse System and Seaside Store, all based in Catbalogan City.

Disrespect

The amounts separately awarded to three establishments were not disclosed.

Judge Clemente, in his order, said Tan and the other officials tampered the purchased goods on July 16, 17 and 18, well within the period covered by the second TRO that he issued on July 16.

"The respondents clearly committed acts which brought the authority of the court and the administration of law into disrespect or which belittled, degraded, obstructed and embarrassed this court," Judge Clemente said in his order.

Graft suspension

Quoting a Supreme Court decision, the court said that an injunction, or restraining order, remains in effect until it is reversed by the courts.

Last year, Tan was suspended for 90 days by the Department of Interior and Local Government over a graft case involving the use of P56 million of Samar's calamity funds for supplies meant for a typhoon that had long passed when the funds were released.

Tan is planning to run for congressman to take the place of her daughter, Sharee Ann.

ADVISORY

The **University of Santo Tomas** will hold the **last** UST Entrance Test **(USTET)** for Academic Year 2010-2011 **on DECEMBER 6, 2009 (SUNDAY) from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Submission of Admission Requirements will be accepted until December 5, 2009.

Due to the big number of examinees, be reminded that HEAVY TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED within the vicinity of the University, particularly España, Dapitan, A.H. Lacson, and P. Noval Streets on the day of the USTET.

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Sarangani gov: Local execs' backing clearest sign of GMA push for Gibo

By Aquilino Zurcio
Inquirer Mindanao

CEBERAL SANTOS CITY—SARANGANI Gov. Miguel Dominguez yesterday declared what he said was the clearest sign of the failure of President Macapagal-Arroyo to raise the hand of her party's standard-bearer, Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr., saying the support of thousands of local party leaders was a strong enough sign of the President's support for Teodoro.

"There will no need for PGMA (Ma-ra-ngal) to raise the hand of Gibo during the party proclamation," said a text message from Dominguez, who is now endorsed president of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition.

"The unanimous support shown by party leaders all over the country ... overshadowed the traditional raising of hand," said the governor.

Earlier, Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III was quoted as saying that raising hands during a convention was "old style."

"Some leaders will endorse somebody and, after a while they will raise the hands of another candidate," Bello was quoted as saying.

Dominguez said Teodoro deserved the support of Mindanaoans because of his commitment to improving their lives.

"Gibo's decision to handpick young leaders from Mindanao is a strong indication of his commitment and belief for Mindanao," he said.

"It's time for Mindanao to play a key role in national politics," he added.

"All of the 6,000 Lakas-Kampi-CMD members who attended Teodoro's proclamation left the venue with a clear purpose and that is to help Gibo decisively win the 2010 elections," he said.

He said raising Teodoro's hands, said Dominguez in a press statement, Mr. Arroyo was "narrowly observing political protocol."

In his speech during the convention, Teodoro rallied delegates to support his campaign to become president, telling them there was nothing to be ashamed of in having associated with the Arroyo administration.

Mr. Arroyo's popularity ratings have been consistently in the negative. Her spokesperson once dismissed this, saying some of the negative perceptions about the President would be a result of some of her economic programs.

'The unanimous support shown by party leaders all over the country overshadowed the traditional raising of hand...'

INQUIRER Mindanao

Email us at: [illegible]
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Fund scandals rock North Cotabato

PIÑOL

LACCEN LAH

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Kidapawan City

PUBLIC FUND SCANDALS ARE buffeting several top government officials in North Cotabato, six months before their terms of office expire next year.

Only recently, the Ombudsman ordered the preventive suspension of Gov. Jesse Mangudadatu after a complaint was filed against him over the purported irregular release of P27 million in calamity funds.

Mangudadatu will also be investigated in connection with allegations that he entered a farmer-privatized official to justify falsely the sale of lands intended for the rehabilitation of roads damaged by last year's flood, acting Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro said.

The complainant, Milagros Cado, former district engineer of the provincial's first district, said she was repeatedly ordered by the governor to review the program of works covering the road project in order to hide irregularities in fuel purchases.

One such transaction was made on May 26, 2009, when 134,438.7 2 liters of fuel was purchased from a gas station capable of storing only 10,000 liters in Midsayap town.

The evidence presented against Mangudadatu showed that the commitment of fuel was "rife with badges of corruption," Casimiro said.

"As governor, it was Mangudadatu who approved the programs of works covering the questioned road projects," Casimiro said. "His acts, as alleged, are sufficient to constitute grave misconduct, which if proven, will warrant his dismissal from service."

Chief members of the governor's office were also waiting for the Ombudsman's decision over a complaint filed by provincial administrator Jovit Piñol against Vice Gov. Emmanuel Piñol. Piñol suspected that Piñol, when he was then governor in 2008, pocketed the P5 million in calamity funds released under his name.

The hottest caught Piñol for his comments, but he refused to talk. He only said his lawyers were ready to transmit their reply to the Ombudsman.

Some people close to Piñol believed that Piñol had an axe to grind against the former governor who sought the official's removal over questionable facilities deals.

In July last year, Storm Crotabato was placed under the state of calamity after flash floods struck and ravaged farm crops worth P600 million and infrastructure costing P194 million.

The provincial board approved the release of P20 million, but Sacdalan insisted on utilizing P45 million, or more than 70 percent of the P27 million calamity fund, for the relief and rehabilitation of the affected communities.

'Executive risk'

Sacdalan then said media that he was taking an "executive risk" when he decided to use more than the approved amount.

On the second week of August, the board approved a resolution asking the governor and his team to explain how the P45 million was spent.

Sacdalan did not show up during the council session, saying it was impossible for him to report on the distribution of relief goods because it started only on Aug. 17. He, however, gave assurance that the money was "in good hands."

In his complaint, Piñol said Piñol failed to liquidate P2 million in calamity funds intended for the hospitalization of, and financial assistance to, the victims of a vehicular accident in Makilala town in 2006. Eighteen people were killed and 12 others were wounded in the accident.

Piñol acknowledged that the unliquidated amount could not have been an earthed but Piñol not asked Sacdalan to liquidate his own calculations this year.

Piñol "has no right to ask the governor (Sacdalan) to liquidate after one week that the province was declared under state of calamity. It was only one week after the declaration. What I am saying is he is demanding something that he himself failed to do," Piñol said.

Taxpayer's suit

The complainant insisted that he was not working for Sacdalan, but because he is a constituent and taxpayer. "But in a personal capacity. That is why I am being the provincial administrator but as a resident of North Cotabato—and someone who pays his tax," he said.

In September, Piñol filed the case against Piñol at the Ombudsman for violation of Articles 217 and 218 of the Revised Penal Code on malversation of public funds resulting from the failure to liquidate cash advances, and Section 12B in addition to Section 60 of Presidential Decree No. 1445 (Institution of cash advances).

A copy of the complaint circulated by the Inquirer included a July 23, 2009, letter of provincial accountant Rhoda D. Peralta to Piñol, reminding him to liquidate the cash advances granted to join the earlier beneficiary your current future cash advances."

If the cash advances were not settled within 10 working days, Peralta will withhold or deduct the amount from Piñol's salary and other claims.

In his reply dated July 28, 2009, Piñol said his staff "is trying their best in reconstructing all pertinent documents relative to the matter" and that if these efforts failed, he "will provide proper notification to the government for these unliquidated cash advances by the end of this year."

2 checks

What followed was the issuance by Piñol of three checks, apparently as refunds for the unliquidated funds. The first, amounting to P255,000, was released on Aug. 31; the second, P300,000, was released on Sept. 30; and the third, P473,000, on Oct. 30.

"The public is concerned to know if incident ed public officials is allowed to pay his unliquidated cash advances which were received in actual cash through personal checks. What happened to the actual cash received by the Governor Piñol as advances from the calamity fund which he now pays with personal checks?" Piñol said in his complaint.

The Ombudsman is yet to act on the complaint.

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—JOSÉ MIGUEL T. ARIS, III
November 2009

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail: global@inquirer.com.ph

Ten section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a for... ...e are their stories.

'Konnichiwa' from a happy family in Tokyo

BLESSED BE THE TIES THAT BIND Jane Legaspi, with husband Dante, an engineer, and their daughter Danielle Mayumi, feels so blessed while living in Japan: "We couldn't ask for anything more."

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THERE IS THAT FAMILIAR story of Filipino migrant families all over the world: Dad gets a plum job abroad; mum and children decide to go with him to keep the ties intact.

For the past two years, life has been one big adventure for the Legaspis in Tokyo. Happily relocating to one of the greatest cities in the world has worked for this young family of a dentist.

"There are a lot of things we miss back home, but we've been so blessed here in Japan or we couldn't ask for anything more," quipped Jane Kahwanan Legaspi, 28, refer to 29-year-old electronics and communications engineer Dante Legaspi Jr. and mother to 4-year-old Danielle Mayumi.

Jane, a clothing technology graduate from the University of the Philippines, had worked for an Americ... way company in Manila for three years before deciding to move to Japan with her family in 2007.

Can't speak Nihongo

Husband Danny had been given a job as a research and development engineer at Toppan Nomo Co. Ltd., a large printing company in Japan.

"We could not speak Nihongo, but he was lucky to be hired by the company," Jane proudly said of Danny. "In fact, he was the first foreigner (non-Japanese) to be hired by Toppan Forms."

The Legaspis settled in Hachioji (Tokyo, a city famous for housing many universities and the R&D departments of big companies. They live in the more beautiful neighborhood in the Hachioji suburbs to this day.

Like most overseas Filipino workers, the Legaspis' new life abroad was rife with unforgettable experiences.

"We came here knowing only the word 'Konnichiwa' (hello) and nothing else," Jane laughed, recalling the time when she applied for a job in Minamidaira, one of Japan's busiest cities.

Jane could not find the address of the company she was looking for because she had trouble reading the map and could not speak or read a word of Nihongo or Kanji (Chinese).

After a few hours of walking around, she finally answered the concierge and showed someone the address of the company she was applying for.

"Funny thing was, I was actually standing in front of the company's building, but I didn't know it. I felt so stupid and embarrassed!" she recalled.

But everything ended happily for Jane. She now works as an English teacher for Gaba Corporation, one of the largest culture (language school) in Japan.

The bubbly 28 year-old also teaches part time in a kindergarten school, music school and electronics company.

"I enjoy my job, as I get to interact with lots of people, from 3 year- to 8 year-old children, to housewives, engineers, businessmen and even actors and CEOs," she said, adding that her oldest student is around 65 years old.

"I would say that teaching English here in Japan is easier than in the Philippines, because the main focus here is speaking. Of course, we teach them grammar but they already learned that in high school."

Jane's flexible office hours allow her to choose the convenient time for her to work, which is usually close to the hours a day Danny starts work at 8:30 a.m. and goes home at 7 p.m.

During their days off, the Legaspis go sightseeing and explore the beautiful places in Japan such as Kyoto and Osaka. They also love learning more about the Japanese ways.

"What I like about the Japanese is their ability to mix the old and new traditions and culture. They may be very advanced when it comes to technology but they still practice their old customs at home or at work," Jane said.

She can very easily relate to the Japanese love of family, she said.

Japanese men and women work hard and usually work overtime, but weekends or holidays are always family time.

Japanese work ethics

Jane said that Japanese parents are extraordinarily close to their family members, but not totally dependent on them.

"What I've noticed is that when the child gets a regular job and is still living in his parents' house, he gives them money which would serve as his rent," she said.

Another thing that Jane admires is the legendary Japanese work ethics. Death is not accepted in the Japanese workplace, as they unanimously strive for excellence in everything they do.

"They give excellent work, as they expect the same thing from other people. This may be the reason it is not common to tip people in Japan. Even taxi drivers return your change!" she quipped.

While they have absolutely fallen in love with their second home, the Legaspis sorely miss the Philippines, finding pleasure themselves with pictures of friends and family posted on social networking sites such as Facebook and Friendster.

"We miss Jane's mom's food like dried fish, lechon, and Pinty like pinipig, guinumis and jackfruit," she sighed.

Danny and Jane constantly talk about their future, including plans to invest in some pieces of property in the Philippines to make sure that their little retired money will not go to waste.

"There are lots of plans and possibilities, but, sure we're just enjoying our time here in Japan, while fun here very kind to our family," she said.

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My child is facing deportation proceedings

ON DEC. 23, BOB, A 20-YEAR-OLD Filipino who entered the United States when he was five, will be appearing before an immigration court in face deportation charges. Two days before Christmas, he should be ready to present to the court a relief why he should not be deported.

A few years back, Bob was an honor student in a US high school. After graduation, he learned for the first time from his parents that he is an "undocumented alien." He was told that his mother's working visa expired and that her petitioner for immigrant visa suffered financial losses resulting in denial of their green card petitions.

Considering the pressure they experienced, Bob's parents separated and filed for divorce. His mother later married a US citizen after Bob's mother (A.A.) petition for immigrant visa was filed by this US citizen on behalf of Bob and his mother. Unfortunately, only the mother obtained the green card and Bob was left out because he was already 16 at the time his mother married his stepfather.

Last month, Bob received this notice to Appear from the court. He shall be deported if he does not have a form of relief that will save him from deportation.

Should Bob shall be deported?

Falling through the cracks

Many aspire to obtain a green card in free and work in the US. For fear that their children would be left behind without proper care, parents send their children to emigrate too.

In the process of legalizing the parents' stay, the children's status is oftentimes compromised. In the case of Bob, his parents started initially as lawful residents with valid working visas. In the meantime, Bob continued with his education and even excelled in school. His parents never revealed to him their actual status until after graduation for fear that Bob may be affected adversely.

True enough, when he found out about it, Bob became frustrated and felt low depression since he could not get into a college of his choice to pursue his studies.

Obviously, Bob's mother was a victim of the economic downturn. Her visa was denied because her petitioner closed his business. His attorney is an unintended consequence of the unfortunate situation of his mother's petitioner.

There are children in deportation proceedings which come as a "result" of negligence of some parents. Without thinking the long term effect of an immigration application, there are those who file for frivolous applications. So political asylum to the US. Unaware to these applicants, their applications are eventually denied and their cases are brought to immigration courts after many years. There are children of political asylum applicants who are now facing deportation because of denied applications of their parents.

Children who enter the US with visitor's visa and who eventually fall out of status may also find themselves in deportation proceedings because their parents are simply indifferent to their plight. These parents believe that just because their children are getting the elementary and secondary education as undocumented, their status will eventually be fixed. There are the bench-warmers who wait every year for a change in the law that will benefit the undocumented. Many are placed in immigration proceedings and eventually receive orders of deportation.

The decision to come to the US was never made by the "undocumented children." They never had any participation in their parents' decision. As innocent children, they do not deserve the punishment of deportation.

Unfair to children

Many children like Bob who grew up in the US have overcome the language barriers and adjusted well to the mainstream American society. They do not even remember how to speak the Filipino language.

When they face deportation, they find it difficult to raise deficiencies. More often than not, their immediate relatives are also undocumented who are also incapable of rendering immigration benefits to them.

For many years now, the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act has been in Congress but never had the support of majority of the legislators. If passed into law, this legislation would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide a pathway for these children to obtain their green cards. The DREAM Act proponents consider some for children who are of good moral character, have lived in the US for five years and attended high school in the US. Until this bill is passed, thousands of children will be facing deportation.

Dreaming of a better future for the family includes making long-term plans to benefit the children as well. Time is very precious for children and they should be provided a chance to excel and succeed in life. It is not fair to see children to tragic deportation circumstances.

[Inquirer may be reached at inq@inquirer.com.ph or at (632)897-2323]

US report lauds RP for religious freedom

THE CRESCENT MOON AND THE CROSS, symbols of Islam and Christianity, are within a few hundred meters in Quiapo, Manila.

Front page A1

Regarded as the most comprehensive survey of religious freedom worldwide, it records the status of respect for religious freedom in all countries.

The report's primary focus is on the actions of governments, including those that contribute to religious repression or tolerate violence against religious minorities as well as those that protect and promote religious freedom.

The year's edition of the report examined how governments in 198 countries are protecting or failing to protect religious freedom.

Each country report covers the country's religious demography; government respect for religious freedom (including the legal and policy framework, restrictions on religious freedom, abuses of religious freedom, and improvements and positive developments); societal respect for religious freedom; and US government policy and actions.

In remarks at the launch of the report last month, US State Secretary Hillary Clinton said this year's report noted efforts by some countries to promote and support interfaith dialogue and tolerance.

Interfaith cooperation

"We commend, for example, the Philippine leadership in the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace at the United Nations," Clinton said.

It was a Philippine initiative that brought interfaith cooperation onto the agenda of the UN in 2003, and led to the creation of the tripartite forum, an open-ended consultative group composed of representatives of UN member states, the UN system and nongovernmental organizations.

The 2009 religious freedom report noted that in the Philippines, the Council on Interfaith Initiatives "continued to strengthen the government's existing institutional arrangements for interfaith activities by coordinating interfaith programs and initiatives with all government agencies, local government units, and nongovernmental organizations (NGO) partners."

It, however, noted complaints from the Muslims, who are concentrated in some of the poorest provinces, that the government had not made sufficient efforts to promote their economic development as they still suffered from economic discrimination.

It noted that the Philippine Constitution provides for freedom of religion, and other laws and policies contributed to the generally free practice of religion.

Discrimination noted

But it said that some ethnic, religious, and cultural discrimination against members of the Muslim minority by members of the Christian majority, combined with economic disparities, contributed to persistent conflict in certain Muslim provinces.

Based on a traditional policy of promoting moral education, public schools in the Philippines give religious groups the opportunity to teach moral values during school hours, the report said.

The report said the government continued to implement its unified curriculum, designed to integrate students (Muslim schools) into the national education system. In addition to the 28 madrasa registered with the Department of Education (DepEd), 37 additional madrasa in Mindanao were in the process of obtaining operation permits from the education department.

It said the DepEd has ordered public elementary schools that had at least 25 Muslim students to begin offering Arabic-language instruction and classes on Islamic values.

During the 2008-2009 school year, the DepEd provided Arabic-language instruction and Islamic values education, including textbooks on these subjects, to Muslim students in 734 public elementary schools.

The government's National Ecumenical Consultative Committee (Necom) fosters interfaith dialogue among major religious groups, including the Roman Catholic Church, Muslim groups, Iglesia ni Cristo, Aglipayan, and Protestant denominations.

Smaller Protestant denominations are represented in the Necom through the National Council of Churches of the Philippines and the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, two large networks of Protestant churches and ministry groups. Necom members meet periodically with the President to discuss social and political issues.

The report noted that the Philippines observes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, All Saints' Day, Christmas Day, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as national holidays.

Human rights policy

According to the State Department report, the US government discusses religious freedom with the Philippine government as part of its overall policy to promote human rights.

The US Embassy in Manila is actively encouraging the peace process between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and maintained active outreach with religious leaders and NGOs to engage them in interfaith activities, it said.

In 2008, 60 percent of the US Agency for International Development's (USAID) $95 million budget for the Philippines went to programs in Mindanao, mostly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

"USAID programs were instrumental in supporting the peace process and helped foster an environment for greater religious tolerance," the report said.

It said USAID also implemented an internship program for young Muslim students and parental leaders to the largely Christian-dominated House of Representatives which helped policymakers develop a more intimate understanding of Muslim cultures, while fostering an appreciation among the interns for the policymaking and legislative processes.

The embassy also sought to help community leaders broaden their cultural understanding through exchange programs by sending education officials and principals of Muslim schools to the US under its voluntary visitor schemes.

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Norway to help RP forecast floods

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES AND NORWAY HAVE signed an agreement to improve the flood forecasting and warning system (FFWS) for Magat Dam and to prevent loss of lives and damage to property due to floods in downstream communities.

In a statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Saturday the agreement was signed recently by Solmire Secretary Estrella B. Alabastro and Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines Kim Solem in Manila. Project Manager Nilo Mendoza of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) and Kim Lande, country director of SN Power Philippines, witnessed the ceremony.

Under the agreement, Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), will provide a grant of $1.52 million (approximately P71.2 million) for the upgrading of the existing FFWS facilities and the expansion of the monitoring facilities of the Cagayan River basin.

"The project will also look into the existing data protocols of Magat. The Philippine government will reimburse a total of $789,444 (P9.2 million) for the public sector man-hour, labor and civil works.

Of the total local counterpart, $72,689 (P3.4 million) will come from SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) Magat, Inc. while the rest will be provided by Pagasa and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). Total project cost is about $1.7 million (P80.6 million).

Lande said SN Power Philippines felt very strongly about the project, citing corporate social responsibility as the driving force that brought the project to Norway.

"It was very important for us to convey to the Norwegian government the merits of the project, especially in terms of mitigating loss of lives and livelihood in the downstream communities," he said.

Meanwhile, SNAP Magat Inc. chief executive officer Emmanuel Rubio emphasized the significance of the agreement in the aftermath of the powerful storms that devastated northern Luzon in October.

"When we assumed operation of the power plant, we saw the need for rehabilitating the FFWS system and equipment to better coordinate evacuation and NIA's disaster mitigation capabilities in times of flooding," Rubio said.

He said that SNAP-Magat Inc. made representations with the Norwegian government for funding of the Magat FFWS rehabilitation to support the government and communities in disaster response, management and mitigation.

Nilo said that with this development, "our flood forecasting and warning system will not only benefit the downstream area of Magat dam but also the whole Cagayan river basin with the expansion of monitoring facilities along major tributaries."

Alabastro said the project was part of the ongoing upgrading program of Pagasa's monitoring facilities that started a couple of years ago.

Magat Dam is a multipurpose dam that serves as a source of hydroelectric power and irrigation water for almost 85,000 hectares of agricultural lands. The dam is under the operational control of the NIA, while SNAP Magat Inc. owns and operates the 360MW Magat hydroelectric power plant. SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) is jointly owned by SN Power of Norway and the Aboitiz Group.

THE ISLANDS GET CLOSER
President Arroyo inaugurated yesterday another two-hour ro-ro service between the Visayas and Mindanao, using the MV Lite Ferry 1 at the Bato wharf in Santander, Cebu. The ferry will dock in Poloman, Dapitan City. With the President is Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia. PCN/Malacañang photo

Marikina gets P300M to rebuild

By Michelle V. Remo

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORP. (IFC), an arm of the World Bank, has approved a loan to fund reconstruction of portions of Marikina, which was devastated by Ondoy in the aftermath of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

The loan, amounting to P300 million, is earmarked for the construction of a dike and the rehabilitation of flood-damaged major roads and other facilities.

Portions of the loan will also be used to fund infrastructure work on the Dumaan-sa-Langgal ng Marikina.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, in charge of managing liquidity, has already given the green light for the acceptance of the loan by the city government of Marikina.

According to a source from the central bank, the loan will be payable in 10 years and shall carry an interest rate equivalent to the rate of a benchmark 70-year peso loan plus a spread of 2.6 percent. Interest payments shall be done semi-annually.

This is the first time IFC will be lending to a local government unit. Usually, the IFC lends to private sector entities.

Marikina was one of the most seriously damaged cities by Ondoy, which was estimated to have caused the deaths of more than 800 people and destroyed billions of pesos worth of property in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Environmental experts said the storm, which brought unprecedented rainfall, was caused by climate change, which in turn is a consequence of carbon emissions.

President Macapagal-Arroyo—without said the Philippines should be compensated for the damage caused by Ondoy, stressing that climate change principally stemmed from the carbon emissions of industrialized countries.

According to estimates by environmental experts, the Philippines only contributes 0.3 percent of total carbon emissions in the world.

Many countries and foreign funding institutions, including the United Nations and Asian Development Bank, responded favorably to the government's call for assistance.

HIV cases rising in RP, UN warns

By Jerry E. Esplanada

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) cases among Filipino youth "have been increasing at an unprecedented rate," the United Nations representative's office in Manila has warned.

"And while the country is still within the target of less than one percent of the population for HIV—the AIDS-causing virus—the rising number of HIV cases has become a cause for alarm," said the UN office in a report.

The report furnished the reporters said, "HIV cases among the 15-24 age group nearly tripled from 411 in 2007 to 1,113 in 2008."

"Aside from the youth, other vulnerable populations include persons in prostitution and their clients, males who have sex with males, people who inject drugs, and overseas Filipino workers."

To prevent the young from falling the local UN office asked the Philippine government to "provide accurate information on AIDS."

"Access to comprehensive services for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can help prevent the spread of HIV," it also said.

Local government units "need to ensure that comprehensive STI services are in place and accessible at the local level. They should also know [about] HIV and STI epidemics in their constituencies."

"We need to generate timely strategic information for appropriate action. By knowing our epidemic, we can strengthen capacity of interventions for the most-at-risk and vulnerable populations. Knowing our epidemics will enable us to plan low-cost and high-impact interventions at the local and national levels," the UN office said.

Fighting HIV-AIDS and other killer diseases is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) for global human development. The targets, anchored on eradicating extreme poverty by 2015, were lauded by 189 UN member-states at the start of the new millennium.

The other MDG targets are achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development.

Under the random HIV-AIDS target, UN member-countries are asked to "halt and begin to reverse" the spread of the disease and "achieve by 2015 universal access to treatment for HIV-AIDS for all those who need it."

The UN office in Manila earlier said the Philippines continued to lag behind in its MDG targets.

"While the Philippines is progressing well in its bid to achieve most of the targets, faster pace of gains is urgently needed on such areas of the 2015 goals, especially because poverty has increased in the country."

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III had said in an August 2008 press conference that an average of 29 new HIV cases a month were reported in 2007 and 2008, up from 20 cases a month in prior years.

"Although the Philippines remains a low-prevalence country, it should not be a reason to be complacent. As statistics and trends show the number of those infected is on the rise," Duque had said.

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2009

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October 3 — Storm Ginkong Breaking & Fund Raising Fellowship

December 19 — Lantern Parade 2009; Igme Fellowship; an Engg Lobby & Steps

UPME Pre-Centennial Dinner Party at the Carillon; After the Lantern parade

2010

January 10 — Announcement of Design Contest Guidelines

February 13 — Elad Dazzling & Motorcade; Bahr-Diwa

Centennial Fun Run; 6am - 8am

Exhibition Basketball (UPME) Faculty vs Alumni; 10am-12nn

February 19 — Retro Engg Music Talent Night; 6:30pm at the UP Theater

March 6 — UPME Golf Tournament; Tagaytay Midlands

April 10 — UPCOE Tree - planting

May 28 — 100 Outstanding Alumni Engineers Awarding Ceremony; 6-8pm at the UP Film Center

May 31 — Presentation & Judging of Design Contest

June 7 — UPCOE Admin/EDPS Night

June 12 — Centennial Exhibit & Awarding of Design Contest ; 2pm

UPAE Homecoming; 5pm-10pm

Launching of UPE Centennial Coffee Table Book

September — Alumni Napa Volleyball game

October — Alumni Napa Bowling Game

2010 Conferences

February 19 — 4th AMET Conference

May 20-21 — IEEE/IAP Int'l Conference on Engg Education; Bayview Hotel; LEAMED hosted it

September 8-9 — Int'l Workshop/Congress on Materials, Systems in Asia; ALEN SEAD; 5th IFC on Microelectronics; Diamond Hotel

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Sansó recalls Manila of yesteryear

The return of the 'native': An artist's story

By Allison W. Lopez

ALTHOUGH HE HAS LIVED most of his life in Europe, Spanish painter Juvenal Sansó always knew in his heart that Manila, where he was raised, was "home."

"I feel at home here," said the multi-awarded artist who turns 80 tomorrow.

It is no wonder why Sansó feels a deep attachment for Manila despite 30 years of residency abroad. At the age of 5, he was sponsored from Casablanca, Spain, when his family migrated to the Philippines and pioneered a sugarcane business in 1934.

Juan Juvenal Pedro settled with his family in a tiny, respectable Paco community near Pasig River, not far from Malacañang. It was an ideal setting for the adventurous boy who recalled a bucolic Manila filled with caves and gardens.

SANSÓ, A24

Sansó recalls Manila of yesteryear

Francisco Sicat

"It was a very different time. Manila was more of a garden city then. Isaac Peral, now Undas Asuncion Avenue, used to be lined with grand, old acacia trees," he said.

"The houses had windows with no grills, work or bars. People would leave their houses without locking their doors. It was a very idyllic life," the artist added.

Fond memories

The Pasig, too, held a lot of fond memories for Sansó—who started to learn by his father to swim at the age of 8 with his sister and children from the neighborhood. With a rope tied to his waist, he learned to float, paddle and swim in the river that used to be clean and safe.

"I was one of a handful of Manileños who learned how to swim in the Pasig. The day when I was able to cross the river, I felt I was king of the world," he recalled.

It was also near the Pasig where the young, blue-eyed explorer rambled upon a lovers' nook used by maids and drivers of rich families as a meeting place for their trysts.

"There were huligan [entertainers] wearing the river near the trail. At first, the lovers were surprised to see me there. But they got used to me and I got used to them," he said, with a laugh.

Following the trail cleverly camouflaged by leafy prairie trees and plants, the curious Sansó saw more than what he asked for. His parents never found out the extent of his "education."

It ain't school much later, Sansó was reminded of this discovery when he saw French painter Paul Gauguin's bold paintings of Polynesian natives.

Discovery

"It was an overbearing discovery for me, seeing Gauguin's paintings of half-naked women were so much like what I saw," he said.

But not all his childhood memories of Manila were happy. The family residence was among the many structures that burned down when the Japanese occupied Manila in 1942 during World War II.

Sansó also nearly died from a bombing attack. "I was saved by my own sister the bombings stopped. Manila was one hell hole. I realized later why I run like crazy each time I saw or sniffed the smell of *drahuan* (pork and crackling). It reminded me of burning corpses," he said, trying to hold back his tears.

Sansó's war-time scars were indeed deeper than the ones on his arms and back.

His family fled to Mariveles (now Bataan) where they subsisted on root crops like camote.

"All the banks had closed down by then. We planted camote to survive. It saved our lives," he recalled.

The Sansós struggled to get back on their feet and set up a home-cinema carriage enterprise called "Astor" during the Japanese Occupation. The business folded up when the supply of gasoline returned to normal when the war ended.

Bus business

His father ventured into the public transport business, starting with a bus that plied the Quiapo-Sta. Ana route in Manila.

Sansó, then 13, rode the bus and sold tickets to passengers. On the route, he met people from all walks of life, including American military police and home-grown gangsters like a one-armed thug named "Paiot."

With the reopening of schools, the budding artist, who was getting private lessons in art, enrolled in a fine arts course at the University of the Philippines campus on Padre Faura.

He was in good company, hobnobbing with painters Anselmo Limcaoco from Ilocos, Federico Aguilar, sculptor Napoleon Abueva, cartoonist Larry Alcala and Fidel Rimorin, who eventually became fashion designers.

"We studied in a bombed-out building which is now the Supreme Court," he said.

The family's wrought-iron showroom-factory, first Espaldi, also found a new home at a spot facing Sta. Cruz Church (then called Plaza Time) in Makati City, where the bayanan building now stands.

"We had a big display room," the artist described the 8,000 sq m lot in the country's premier financial district that used to be dotted with rice paddies.

Big success

Arte Espaldi was a "huge success" for 40-50 years, supplying clients from Malacañang and middle-class families with furniture, window grills and doors.

After winning the first prize in oil and watercolor competitions of the Art Association of the Philippines in 1951 (for his paintings "Retrieved" and "Vacation"), Sansó left for further studies in Rome and Paris, and achieved success for his exhibits around the world. In between, he would make frequent visits to Manila.

"My priorities in life are here, but I have to learn from the best sources possible," he continued. "I belong to the Philippine school, whether they like it or not. Some say that I'm a foreigner, but I feel very much at home here," said the painter who speaks Filipino like a native.

Sansó's wet experiences are also reflected in his early paintings, described in his website as "angst-filled grotesqueries"—a stark contrast to Hernando Ancheta's serene depictions of rural scenes.

"Some artists don't want to look at reality but only want the beautiful, which is absolutely achievable. I love Amorsolo. But I was part of that ugly era," he said.

Reality

"There were many things that happened during the war, and if you don't tell these things, it looks like a very little picture, which it is not," he added.

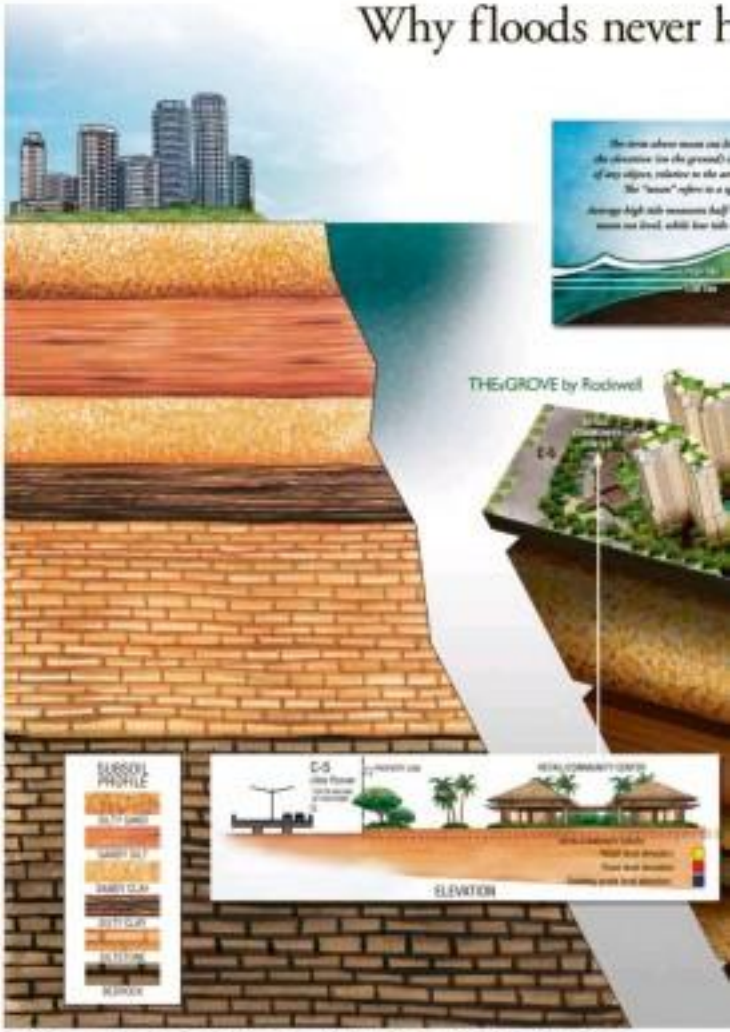
The dark images depicted by the artist, however, have been replaced by blooms in brilliant shades of red, orange, green and blue—perhaps indicating that the artist who had struggled so much had some full circle.

"The way I have lived... and wherever it was—has an impact on my art. I'm a very emotional person, so the good things were marvelous, but the bad things were awful. It's a hard life, but it's different if you're fully immersed in it," he said.

SANSÓ relives both beautiful and sad memories of life in Manila before and during World War II. The scars have not healed, but in the end, it's still a beautiful, reassuring life, he says. Right: Artist's painting of their home on the isle of Mariveles, where his family restrained during the Japanese Occupation. Bureau/areas of things past

Sansó's birthday exhibit, "A Show of Shows," ends tomorrow at the Sapphire Ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Suites, 4/L, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Quezon City.

Why floods never h



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Elderly US couple pleads guilty to spying for Cuba for 30 years

WASHINGTON—AN ELDERLY US couple charged with spying for Cuba for almost 30 years pleaded guilty in the conspiracy on Friday, with the husband agreeing to serve a life sentence, the US Justice Department said.

Walter Myers, 72, a former State Department official with top-secret security clearances, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit espionage and two counts of wire fraud, according to the department.

Wife Gwendolyn Myers, 71, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information to Washington's Cold War enemy Havana, and will serve between six and 7 1/2 years behind bars.

The pair also agreed to forfeit $1,710,054—the total salary Walter Myers earned from the US government between 1982 and 2007, when he made repeated false statements to investigators about his security status.

"For the past 30 years, this couple betrayed America's trust by covertly providing classified national defense information to the Cuban government. Today, they are being held accountable for their actions," David Relman, assistant attorney general for national security, said in a statement.

"These guilty pleas should serve notice that we remain vigilant in preventing our nation's secrets and in bringing to justice those who compromise them."

The couple entered their pleas in the US District Court in Washington before Judge Reggie Walton.

The Myers—Walter had been known as Agent 202 and Gwendolyn was Agent 123—were arrested on June 3 after an undercover FBI ruling operation having allegedly passed on secrets for decades to Washington's Cold War foe.

Shortly after the arrest, former Cuban leader Fidel Castro, who the couple allegedly met in 1965, dismissed the spying charges as a "ridiculous case," saying the pair deserve "all the honors of the world" for keeping Cubans safe.

US authorities pointed a picture of an innocent and known

COURTROOM Illustration by Jane Flavell Collins shows Assistant US Attorney Gordon Michael Harvey (center) arguing against the release of Walter and Gwendolyn Myers (right, seated) at a detention hearing before Judge John Facciola (left).

Red from 1988 to 1999 he began to work for the department's Bureau of Intelligence and research (INR). In 1985, he was given top-secret security clearance which was then upgraded to a higher level in 1999.

By the time he retired, Myers was working as a senior foreign analyst in INR and had daily access to classified information stored on computer databases, the Justice Department said. AFP

Tearful Oprah says ending TV show 'feels right'

CHICAGO—OPRAH Winfrey said on Friday she will end her popular TV show in 2011 because it "feels right to her bones" after 25 years, and urged viewers not to believe rumors of why she's quitting.

"This show has been my life and I love it enough to know when it's time to say goodbye. Twenty-five years feels right in my bones, and it feels right in my spirit. It's the perfect number, the exact right time," Winfrey said during Friday's show in her Chicago studio.

Winfrey, 55, did not divulge her future plans. But her production company Harpo Inc. said in a statement that once production ends on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in 2011, she "plans to appear and participate in new programming for OWN," the Los Angeles-based cable TV venture she formed with Discovery Communications Inc.

Harpo said the hourly show for OWN, or the Oprah Winfrey Network, which will be seen in more than 70 million homes, was now set for January 2011.

During her long career atop the television talk show heap, Winfrey's fluctuating weights and personal relationships have become tabloid fodder, and commentators have wondered whether she was tiring of the grind—only to see her slim down and revive her show's popularity.

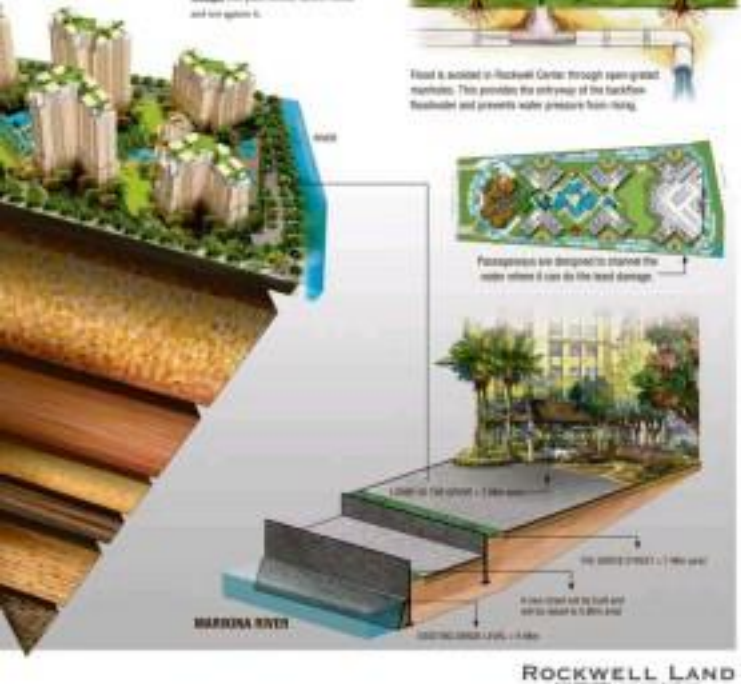
"Over the next couple of days you may hear a lot of speculation in the press about why I am making this decision now, and that will certainly be inaccurate," she said.

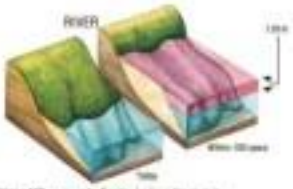
Winfrey choked up once and wiped away a tear as the standard viewers fan having "graciously invited me into your living rooms, your kitchens and into your lives.

"And I'm honored to be there through the season 24. And it will mean as much to me to spend another every day with you as it did back in 1986," she said.

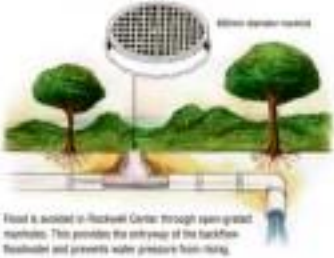
"The Oprah Winfrey Show," broadcast from Chicago on ABC stations across the United States and in more than 100 countries overseas, is one of the TV industry's biggest money-makers. It is the top-rated US daytime talk show, averaging 7.1 million viewers this year. Reuters

...appen in Rockwell.





Within a 100 years cycle, floodwater from the river is expected to rise 7.91 meters above mean sea level.



Flood is avoided in Rockwell Center through open gated manholes. This provides the entryway of the backflow floodwater and prevents water pressure from rising.

Passageways are designed to channel the water where it can do the least damage.

GALILEO'S FINGER: Image provided by a Florence museum shows a finger encased in Galileo Galilei. Galileo, who died in 1642, was branded a heretic by the Vatican for saying the Earth revolved around the Sun. In the early 1990s, he was rehabilitated by Pope John Paul II.

WORLDBRIEFS

Researcher says faint writing seen on Shroud of Turin

ROME—A Vatican researcher has rekindled the age-old debate over the Shroud of Turin, saying that faint writing on the linen proves it was the burial cloth of Jesus. Experts say the historian may be reading too much into the markings, and they stand by carbon dating that points to the shroud being a medieval forgery. Barbara Frale, a researcher at the Vatican Archives, says, in a new book that she used computer-enhanced images of the shroud to decipher barely written words in Greek, Latin and Aramaic scattered across the cloth. She asserts that the words include the name "(Jesus) Nazarenus"—or Jesus of Nazareth—in Greek. That, she said, proves the text could not be of medieval origin because no Christian at the time, even a forger, would have mentioned Jesus without referring to his divinity. Failing to do so would risk being branded a heretic. AP

Italian prosecutor: Knox hated murder victim

PERUGIA, Italy—An American student accused of brutally stabbing her British roommate in Italy had a growing hatred for the victim and killed her in retaliation during a drug-fueled sex game, a prosecutor contended on Friday in closing arguments at her murder trial. Lead prosecutor Giuliano Mignini argued that Amanda Knox, together with her ex-boyfriend and codefendant Raffaele Sollecito and a third man convicted in a separate trial last year, killed Meredith Kercher under "the furore of drugs and possibly alcohol." Knox and Sollecito tried to cover up their crime by staging a burglary, he contended. Knox, of Seattle, wanted to get back at Kercher for saying she was not clean and for calling her promiscuous, Mignini argued. AP

China says 37 dead, 71 trapped in coal mine explosion

BEIJING—A gas explosion tore through a state-run coal mine in northern China on Saturday, killing 37 people and trapping 71 others nearly a third of a mile underground. The accident was a blow for the Chinese government, whose large state-owned coal mines are generally considered to be safer than smaller, private ones. AP

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The WORLD

Lito Lorente B. Guico

Jackson doctor waited an hour before 911 call

LAS VEGAS—MICHAEL JACKson's deathbed doctor waited over an hour to call for help when he realized the pop star wasn't breathing, and could not be found for hours afterward, according to a search warrant unsealed on Friday.

The documents, which police filed to support their request to search a Las Vegas pharmacy in August, provide new insight into what went on at his Los Angeles mansion on June 25 when the 50-year-old "King of Pop" went into cardiac arrest and died.

The warrant states that personal physician Conrad Murray of Las Vegas told authorities in interviews days after the death that he administered the powerful anesthetic propofol only after trying many other medications to help Jackson sleep, and after Jackson's "repeated demands/requests" for the drug.

Jackson then went into cardiac arrest within 20 minutes of that injection, while Murray had stepped out for a bathroom break, the doctor told authorities in an interview a few days after the death.

By Murray's own account to police, he did not call for help until 12:15 p.m., more than an hour after he realized Jackson wasn't breathing.

Phone records showed Murray on his mobile for 47 minutes with three different callers from 11:18 a.m. to 12:05 p.m., a period during which Murray said he was conducting CPR.

"Murray did not mention this in the interviewing documents," the document noted. Police have not disclosed to whom they believe Murray spoke in those calls.

MURRAY

Police found pill bottles for at least eight different prescriptions by Jackson's bed at his home and, in examining the pharmacy warrant, traced the origin of the propofol to a purchase by Murray at Applied Pharmacy Services in Las Vegas on May 12.

Murray, 56, has not been charged with a crime, but the details in the unsealed documents show authorities were suspicious of his behavior even as they took Jackson to UCLA Medical Center in 911 to revive him.

Murray was asked to sign the death certificate but vanished from the hospital premises.

"Upon arrival at UCLA Medical Center, neither the coroner's investigators nor detectives could locate Murray to reinterview him," according to the documents, and repeated attempts to contact him were unsuccessful. AFP

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THE PATRIOTS' Jason Dixon (left) and Christian Sengco of Indonesia go for the loose ball.

Sunday SPORTS

Patriots whip Indonesians, tie Slingers

By Joaquin M. Pujol

MAKING THE MOST OF A SURPRISE advantage, the Philippine Patriots blasted the Indonesia Satria Muda Britama, 74-56, and grabbed a share of the lead in the Asean Basketball League yesterday at the FIBA-Pasay Asean in San Juan.

The Patriots evened to their fourth straight victory to join the idle Singapore Slingers on top of the five-team A.S.E.A.N. standings. Indonesia's import Ndiing Millio...

"We had a big advantage because they played with only one import. But's a very big advantage for us," said Patriots coach Louie Alas. "Jason Dixon is also starting to get his game-shape condition."

The absence of import Assurance validated Millio, who only suited up recently for Satria Muda Britama, averaged 14.5 points and 16 rebounds in his last two outings.

Dixon posted his second straight double-double for the Patriots with a game-high 12 points on top of 10 rebounds. He added five assists and three blocks.

The Patriots will have a 10-day break before clashing with the cellar-dwelling Thailand Tigers on Dec. 1 at the Stanton Sports Arena in Hong Kong.

The scores:

PHILIPPINES (74)—Quiz 11, Gaco 11, Sedan 10, Cipriano 9, Salvanera 8, Dar 8, Pinedo 2, Mina 2, Andoy 2, Tauhiti 2, Ravina 2, Reyes 2.

INDONESIA (56)—Ganesan 17, Hendrawan 13, Ardiansah 11, Sitepu 7, Hidayatullah 4, Sapi 4, Sambiri 2, Pidjoe 0.

Quarters: 20-9, 33-24, 58-38, 74-56

Fiery SMB spills Coke

By Mhaneg R. Cardiz

CEBU CITY—SAN MIGUEL PROVED TOO hot for Coca-Cola last night as the Beermen streaked to their seventh straight victory in the KFC Philippine Cup with a 107-104 win in a road game presented by Phoenix Fuel at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Danny Ildefonso gave his fellow Cebuanos a worry with a 17-point, 11-rebound performance and became the 40th member of the elite 5,000-point club as San Miguel rose to 7-2 overall.

The Tigers played without Ita and slumped to a third straight loss in a 1-8 card, just half a game ahead of cellar-dwelling Rain or Shine.

Mark Macapagal paced the Tigers with 18 points, but the continued absence of Ita Tinsley because of visible groin pain left it to Coca-Cola, which entered a weaker group (p6).

Meanwhile, Alaska tries to get another winning streak going today when the two collide with Powerade when the elimination resumes at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

After rebounding nightly from their first loss, the Aces try to stay in the lead in their 6:30 p.m. tussle with the Tender Juicy Giants, their second tough assignment in three nights after beating Talk 'N' Text Friday.

Quality opponents

"It's tough, especially when you have six-player rotation against quality opponents. Thanks to [coach] Alaska coach Tim Cone said after a fightback 116-106 conquest of the Tropang Texters where they blew a 22-point third quarter lead and even trailed late in the fourth.

"But we've responded well to back-to-back games. We've seen all of these [in this conference] so far and we hope that we can continue the streak," he added.

Sir. Louie also seeks a second straight win when it battles Rookie Bull-O Wyatt.

The Steelers will come into the game hoping to take the measurements of ranger-ace new Barangay Ginebra on Wednesday while the Energy Boosters will try to snap out of a four-game losing streak—the longest tongue in the tournament after Rain or Shine's six.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL (107)—Ildefonso 17, Yeng 16, Pena 14, Olivarez 12to, Yap 10, Cortez 9, Reavis 7, Perez 7, Enriquez 5, Semerad 5, Mercado 2, Gaspar 2.

CEBU (104)—Macapagal 18, Degay 17, Pena 17, Olivarez 15, Ogbuke 10, Cortez 8, Cabagnot 5, Gibbings 5, Gaco 4, Sy-Quia 4, Abad 2, Ilustre 2.

Quarters: 20-17, 38-38, 69-59, 107-104

RP routs Guam

THE PHILIPPINE TEAM ROUTED THE visiting Guam selection, 10-2, at the start of the four-day All-Games Baseball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Park.

After a scoreless first inning, the Philippines came up with an eight-run second inning blitz off Guam pitcher Reyner Medina to spark the rout.

The event is organized by the Philippine Amateur Baseball Association and supported by Malakanyang Pres. Gen. Ed, PSC and the POC.

Murakami stumbles with a 76

SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA—ANTONIO BIU-tiful hopeful the first three holes and ended up with a 4-over par 76 that dropped him into a tie for 140th place after three rounds of the Johnnie Walker Cambodian Open Saturday.

The lanky Filipino shotmaker, who had earlier rounds of 68-69 and started the day just two shots off the pace, had eaten of 40-36 for a 216 total, seven off Craig Smith of Wales who kept the lead at 209.

Antonio Lascuña (70) and Jay Bayron (71) moved up a stroke behind Murakami at 214 while Mars Pacay (72) shot behind at 215.

Marvin Dumandan stood at 217 after a 72 while Rey Ongcuan finished at 220 after a 76.

Murakami who pitched up a fourth bogey on the front nine on the seventh hole regaining the final nine at even par, firing three birdies against a bogey and a double bogey on the par-5 13th hole.

The towering Wobbleass Craig fired a 71 and clung to a one-stroke lead going into the final round at the Phokeethai Country Club.

Thai sensay Sangchanlaprasert headed the opening pack in 2007 after a 70 while compatriot Suttipol Supyangmai climbed up the leaderboard with a 68 to take third place at 209.

Malaysia's Shankon Hanim and Thrips Jeevanesh Kat of Thailand took a share of fourth at 214.

Asian Tour News

PAWNYP Pacquiao flicker by $12 million

Pacquiao-Cotto sells 1.25M PPV

Biggest boxing show of 2009

LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACQUIAO'S BID to win over Miguel Cotto on Saturday was the biggest boxing show of the year, selling 1.25 million pay-per-view buys to beat the 1.05 million sold by Floyd Mayweather Jr. for his fight with Juan Manuel Marquez in September.

The television gross was $74 million, meaning both fighters will pocket millions of dollars more than their guaranteed purses.

The strong numbers not only point to a resurgence in interest in boxing in the US, but add to the mystique for a possible fight next year between Pacquiao and Mayweather that could be the richest ever in the sport.

"They have to deliver," HBO Sports president Ross Greenburg told The Associated Press. "The American public wants that fight."

Promoters for both fighters have already said they plan to begin negotiations soon for the bout, which would likely take place in early May. Las Vegas casinos have the inside track on landing the megafight, though there has also been talk of holding it at the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium, or even at Yankee Stadium.

One thing is certain: There is too much money at stake for either fighter to not make the fight happen.

"The way I look at it is easy, boxing is really on a roll," promoter Bob Arum said. "We would be silent now to draw the 'moneyists and the only way we can keep the moneyists is to make that fight."

Arum, who represents Pacquiao, is expected to begin talks as early as next week with Richard Schaefer, who heads Golden Boy Promotions and still represents Mayweather in the negotiations.

Arum said Pacquiao will end up making some $22 million for his 12th round stoppage of Cotto, while Cotto will end up with around $12 million.

The Pacquiao-Cotto fight also did well at the live box office, with 15,476 tickets sold for a gate of $9.99 million at the MGM Grand hotel.

The presence of a Pacquiao-Mayweather fight is no big deal Arenas said, unless megapromoter Wynn had already spoken to him about constructing a $30,000-seat outdoor arena on what is now a vacant lot across from his two resorts to host the bout, with other casinos joining in as partners.

AP

Founders Cup sure blockbuster

THE FOUNDERS CUP INVITATIONAL OF The Orchard Golf and Country Club, one of the most anticipated members-guest tournaments of the year, is poised for a blockbuster 136 golfers in all. 400 slots were snapped up only days after registration was opened.

Presented by Coca Cola, the Founders Cup will be played over four days from Nov. 26 to 29 at the Orchard and Players courses of The Orchard in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

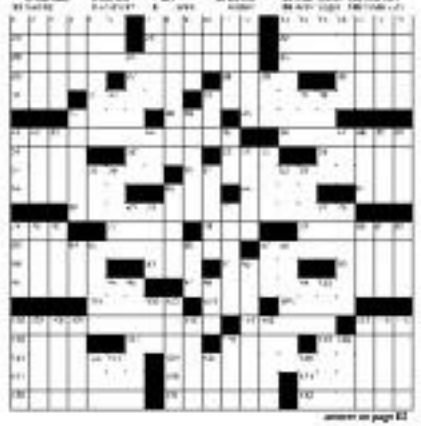
More than P5 million worth of prizes are up for grabs including a Honda Accord, Philippine Airlines business class tickets for two to Los Angeles, El GO and Texas Eagle cards and Asian Alpha business class ticket for hole-in-one feats on designated holes.

Major sponsors are Honda Cars Cavite, Mitsubishi, Philippine Airlines and Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Corp while BDO Equitable Card, Phil. Ports Authority, Security Bank Corp., The Turf Company, Trends & Technologies, Inc. and Orchard Properties are premium sponsors.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

IN THE BRINK OF ANEPE



answer on page E2

MAYOL FIGHTS SOSA

Sonsona defends title vs Hernandez

FILIPINO MARVIN "MARvelous" Sonsona makes his World Boxing Organization super flyweight defense against Mexican Alejandro "Peperito" Hernandez today in Toronto, Canada.

The 19-year-old Sonsona (34-0-12 KOs) won the title from Jose "Carita" Lopez of Puerto Rico by 12-round unanimous decision in Cainta Rizal in September.

According to Boxrec.com Archive of Philboxing, the Lopez bout was the first time Sonsona, a native of Los Santos City, went past the 10th round. Hernandez (23-1-4 11KOs) has never been stopped.

The bout will be aired to the Philippines at 3 p.m. today over tape of Solar Sports and GMA 7.

Meanwhile, Filipino Jhoel Sinpol and Ukrainian Edgar Sosa will be fighting for the WBC minimumweight title today in Chiapas, Mexico.

Sosa, who holds a 10-0 record with 21 KOs will be making his 11th title defense against Mayol (20-4-1 with 19 KOs.

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V-League: KO tiff for Lady Eagles, Lady Tams

By Cedrik Tupaz

AN INSPIRED ATENEO SQUAD AND AN inconsistent De La Salle University slugfest for the last semifinal berth in the Shakey's V-League Season 6 second conference at the FEUI Hyatt's 4th time lucky.

The winner of the 4 p.m. knockout match will advance opposite the top-ranked University of Santo Tomas Tigresses in a best-of-three showdown for a finals berth.

The Lady Eagles are coming off a pulsating 25-11, 25-18, 17-25, 19-25, 15-11 victory over the Tigresses Friday night that sent them to the showdown with the Lady Tamaraws.

The Lady Tamaraws have struggled in the quarterfinals, managing only one victory in their matches after entering as a 6-3 crossed in the elimination round.

Despite FEU's sputtering form, Ateneo coach Oni Molino remains wary of the Lady Tamaraws.

"We cannot really underestimate them," said Molino, whose squad was three of its five games in the quarterfinals. "We know they haven't been playing well, but we also saw them at their best this conference that's why we cannot take them for granted because they might come out with their best against us."

Ateneo and FEU have split their two matches in the conference with the Lady Eagles avenging their elimination round defeat in the quarterfinals.

Defending champion Ateneo Generation and Adamson will collide in the other best-of-three semifinal series starting Tuesday.

Big splash by Susan's swimmers

MANILA—AQUASPORTS ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (Aspap) secretary general Susan Papa should have been laughing heartily in triumph after gathering 53 Filipino swimmers to compete in the 2009 Taipei American School International meet.

Just before Susan's huge contingent—the biggest ever to shine the starred jacket the event about four years ago—left for Taipei, Papa president Mark Joseph again tried to abort the trip.

"He did it through first-round ties for Boracay, who called the event organizers ordering them not to allow the group to swim since they were not affiliated with the Papa. The organizers simply ignored them," Susan disclosed.

* * *

Learning from a night match experience in Singapore some months ago where the Papa president almost succeeded in convincing the organizers to ban Susan's swimmers, she made sure that this roadblock won't happen again.

"When I got his invitation, I immediately informed the organizers that we were not under the Papa. We had anticipated that Mark Joseph will try to block our participation again. And he did. But again he was unsuccessful. The organizers said we don't need the sanction of the Papa since our club had been participating in the last couple of years," Susan said.

Only Susan's club participated here in the past. This year she decided to share the invitation with other clubs under the umbrella of the newly formed Aasp. Clubs from Pampanga, Cebu and Dubai eventually joined the Metro Manila teams.

The new swimmers included Ria Amanda Dimaano, Georgelle and Delia Angela Cordero, daughters of coach Dennis whose trip and participation were sponsored by Susan.

"I feel a certain kind of excitement when I open cubes. I am passionate in helping in whatever way I can to help them achieve their full potential," Susan said.

* * *

Why was Susan not laughing heartily?

"Let's just say I now understand more that there is problems in front of a national sports association...specifically why he has to use an iron hand in handling certain matters," she said.

At presstime, Susan has 19 golds, which she will later present to dump grenades Dimaano, Georgelle and Delia Angela Cordero, daughters of coach Dennis whose trip and participation were sponsored by Susan.

Last year, Susan's club brought home only one gold after two days of competition against swimmers from Hong Kong, Vietnam, Japan, Beijing, Shanghai and host Taiwan.

* * *

I'm just frank of the current standing of the Coca-Cola Tigers in the PBA.

Coke grassroots and team manager Jil Bayles said he has some hitches in the line-up for the Monterey Division Pinagsiklan, who refuses to search her out-fight line.

"The only difference is, Mommy D's prayers for a victory are always answered this time around," Jil said.

"Maybe I am praying to the wrong saints!"

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

Elder Patrimonio, Arevalo dispute PCA Open crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOP SEED ANNA CHRISTINE PATRIMONIO and four-time champion Cristina Mae Arevalo swept past their semifinal foes yesterday to forge a women's singles title showdown in the Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open tennis championships.

The 17-year-old Patrimonio outdrained Jessica Agra, 6-3, 6-2, while Arevalo, who last won this tourney two years ago, blasted Dorcinson's 15-year-old sister Anna Clarice, 6-2, 6-3, in one hour and 15 minutes.

Patrimonio will try to go all the way in today's finals at 11 a.m., with Arevalo standing sister in the Gilmana Duellist standing.

Also scheduled at 2 p.m. is the men's final pitting four-time Johnny Arella against unheralded 18-bidder Marc Reyes.

"She (Arevalo) plays like my sister, which means I expect to more last tomorrow to catch up with her," said the elder daughter of basketball legend Abet Patrimonio.

The tall and slender Anna Christine took an early 4-2 lead in the first set and needed to victory.

"I just tried to give her high balls and wait for the right time to attack," said Anna Christine, who relied on her solid groundstrokes.

The 26-year-old Arevalo, the former #9 No. 1 who is now based in Thailand, used her familiarity with the PCA stall south to oust Anna Clarice.

Meanwhile, Frannie Gary Alcantara and Heinrich Jovan ended the two-year reign of Johnny Arella and #1 Torres as men's doubles champion with a 7-6 (2), 6-2 victory.

The 17-year-old Alcantara, the reigning Australian Open junior doubles champion, was all over the court firing rallies to spark the victory south P20,000.

CHRISTINE Patrimonio: Living up to lofty billing

LEE Yu-ri (center) displays her trophy after beating fellow Korean Yoo Mi (second from right) in capture the singles crown in the $1,000 Rocket ITF Women's Circuit Week 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center yesterday. Frannie Gary Alcantara, ITF tournament supervisor Puneet Gupta, Philippine vice president Alex Puruhan and Roland Ilo, manager of Rocketfibre.

Liu captures ITF Week 2 title

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHINESE FIFTH SEED LIU GUANZHU stamped her class over Korean seventh seed Han Sung Jeer, 6-1, 6-2, yesterday and captured the P1,000 Rocket ITF women's tennis circuit Week 2 title at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

It was a redeeming win for the lefty Liu, ranked 481st in the world, who last week lasered out in the quarterfinals to another Korean, eventual champion Lee Yi-ra.

The 19-year-old Liu, a native of Tianjin, was never in danger in the win that the latter's two-hour and 30-minutes as she torched victory at will.

Han, 19 and ranked #1186 in the world, failed to show the form that lifted her past Week 1 winner Lee in the quarterfinals and Thai Nithat Leenpiboonkul in the semis.

Guanzhu, who was ranked as high as 316th in the world juniors, claimed top seed Nadia Beggy-Ebersch of France and No. 4 Yoo Mi of Korea among her victims on the way to the title.

In the doubles final late Friday, Korean Han Na Lae and Yoo Mi smoked former #5 No. 3 Cristina Mae Arevalo and German Katharina Lehnert, 6-0, 6-3.

Meanwhile, the qualifying round of the Philippine International Ameteurs Week 1 will be held today and tomorrow, with the top nineteen players facing off on Nov. 26.

Ford-Tuason rookies shine

CALDERON

THE FORD TUASON Racing wrapped up the season with another impressive first behind rookie drivers Mel Mark Kukkikon and Cristine Margot Calderon recently in the championship leg of the Philippine Production Car Championship at the Subic International Raceway.

Kukkikon emerged as the best finisher with a second place finish in Races 1 and 2 for the Ford 1502 Racing powered by Ford Racing, Goodyear Racing, Standard Insurance, OMI Discovery Suites, Yellow Cab Pizza, Apollo Auto Glass, Summerbirdd, CI Magazine, Formoff, Dupont, Starlight Bodykits, Elite Racing, Topsel, Orange Electronics, Ben Wheels, KMS, Racing and Philippine Auto Club.

It was a big improvement for the Finland native Kukkikon, the 2003 ARC Group Car Race Series champion held in Hua Thailand, who wound up with splits and misfortunes in the past two legs.

Calderon, a former junior champ and top motocross rider, rebanded third place in Round 11 despite a busted bumper and pulled a repeat in Round 12 to place second runner-up.

Elorde 4-cock anniv derby

A BICAMERVERSARY 4-COCK DERBY WILL be held on Nov. 22, Sunday at the Elorde Cockpit Stadium in Sucat Road, Parañaque.

Presented by Bicameral and Sportsman Aficionados Club, the derby, now on its 10th year, promises a guaranteed purse of P100,000 with derby money capped at P11,000.

For inquiries, call 8284815 or 8284816.

Ateneo, La Salle GH begin Milo Best Center Passerelle campaign

TWO-TIME MVP DEFENDING champion Ateneo de Manila University and Pasarelle defending champion La Salle Green Hills start their campaign as a high note in the Milo-sponsored Best Center MVP Passerelle finals at the Ateneo College Gym in Bagtas City yesterday.

Ateneo de Manila United stamps de Dasmas, 84-32, in the 10:30 game while La Salle Green Hills clamped Xavier School, 102-39, in the Passerelle division.

Ateneo de Manila beat Maryhill Colege, 68-36, in another 500 win contest.

Xavier Panaderos remains sure Xavier School Panaderos Cebu whipped St. John Cathedral School of Dagupan, 100-44, and Xavier School beat Sacred Heart School Ateneo Cebu, 102-90.

LA SALLE Green Hills opens its Passerelle title defense by beating Xavier School-Cagayan de Oro, 102-39.

The tournament's opening was graced by Bagtas City Mayor Rey Guerrero, Nestle MVP and Milo sports events executive Ali Gocong and Best Center founder Flo Jorge.

"My best goal in MBC for consistently involving children in sports, teaching them values like competition and sportsmanship and Bagtas welcomes events that advocate those values," said Guerrero.

The event is held in line with the commitment of Milo to promote sports at the grassroots level and help build champions in life.

Introduced with stories de Manila are Maryhill College of Isarog (Iriga), Ateneo de Iloilo (Ateneo) and Ateneo de Davao (Ateneo).

Lumped with La Salle Green Hills are St. John Cathedral School of Dagupan (Luzon), Sacred Heart School-Cebu (Visayas) and Xavier School-Cagayan de Oro (Mindanao).

Ikeda wins; RP sweeps team plums in Jakarta

CHERRIE BOIRA SCORED AN expected romp in the 50th Indonesia Amateur Open, posting a four-shot victory over local Ivin Reino Indjaputra and Australian Jake Hall to bag the women's and ladies team crowns in Jakarta late Friday.

Boira had a rather easier round of 76 at the Damai Indah Golf Club but rushed to victory in the 54-hole championship.

The 19-Japanese-owned tournament with a 222 total while Indjaputra and Antida had identical 226s at 1 a 72 and 77, respectively.

Ikeda Kudou and Shannon Poh, the other Team RP members, shared fourth at 228 after 76s.

The treks also combined for 295, topping the hosts, who had a 296 aggregate for the team title.

Galido, Villabet and Bonifacio took the men's team crown with a 445 total, beating Kuroda and company who had a 454 total.

ARCHERY TRUSTEES Cong. Rufus Rodriguez (extreme left) poses for a photo with the trustees of the National Archery Association of the Philippines (Naap) Inc. They are (from left) Virginia F. Soriano, lawyer Rupert F. Sampedro, Councilor Rosario R. Bartolome, Atty. E. Jovanie B. Ugay, Fr. Manalang, Ryan M. Miranda and Raphiel L. Velasquez. Soriano was later elected president, while Sampedro, Bartolome, Jimenez and Velasquez were elected as vice president, secretary general, treasurer and auditor, respectively.

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail: pi_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Lito Teddyric S. Molondres

Montecillo Memorial golf slated

THE JUNIOR GOLF FOUNDATION OF the Philippines is staging the Amelia Montecillo Memorial Tournament on Monday, Nov. 10, at the Splendido Sta Golf and Country Club.

The 18-hole tourney commemorating the first death anniversary of the Juniorgolf founder is expected to draw participants from the present crop of players as well as the alumni.

Juniorgolf president Luigi Tabuena said that they hope to come up with an annual competition to honor the pioneering efforts of Montecillo, whose long Juniorgolf advocacy led to the rise of the country as a world juniorgolf power.

For details, see Hazel at 09178863438, or e-mail juniorgolf@yahoo.com or at before 12 noon, Nov. 27.

Magic, Hawks extend win run

Mavericks also hot, subdue Kings

BOSTON—VINCE CARTER SCORED 26 points to lead the Orlando Magic to an 83-78 win over the Boston Celtics on Friday, in a reprise of last season's NBA Eastern Conference semifinal.

Rashard Lewis had 16 points and 10 rebounds as the Magic extended its winning streak to four.

Paul Pierce scored 21 for an eighth Boston victory.

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored with 2.7 seconds remaining to give Atlanta a seven-straight win, 101-103, beating Houston and maintaining the NBA's best record.

Smith scored through the lane to drop in a missed shot. Marvin Williams scored a season-high 20 points for the Hawks, who had five players in double figures.

The Hawks improved to 7-0 at Philips Arena, their best start at home since 1997.

In Dallas, Jason Terry scored 13 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter to lift Dallas over Sacramento, 104-102.

The Mavericks got 32 points from the bench to winning their fifth straight.

Terry had six points during a 12-4 run that gave Dallas a cushion in the fourth.

Sacramento rookie Tyreke Evans had 29 points, seven rebounds and a season-high 10 assists.

Complete results: Cleveland 103, Indiana 86; Memphis 102, Philadelphia 89; Toronto 120, Miami 112, in two OTs; Houston 120, Orlando 83; Boston 78, Minnesota 75; Charlotte 101, Golden State 100; Portland 94, LA Clippers 104; Denver 98, Detroit

DUNKING Wade of the Heat dunks over the Raptors' DeMar DeRozan.

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RP U-16 five rips Bahrain, Kazakhstan

By Jane Meneses

THE NOMA-TEAM FILIPINO CHEDDOM-ered Kazakhstan Friday and Bahrain yesterday to advance to the quarterfinals of the 19th Asia U-16 Men's Championship in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

The Nationals routed Kazakhstan, 76-51, then returned the favor day to whip Bahrain, 62-45, and sweep their Group B assignment.

Skipper Kiefer Ravena, who erupted for 20 points in RP's 64-59 win over Japan Thursday, tossed in 23 against the Kazakhs while Ola Tolentino chose against Bahrain with 27 points.

The Filipinos will face the loser of the South Korea match at the start of the three-game quarterfinals today.

Ravena, brother of former Ateneo wingmate Chester, loaded five three-pointers, pulled down three rebounds and had a steal to rolling over Bahrain's scoring efforts against Bahrain.

Ravena scored eight points, grabbed three rebounds and had two steals for Team Philippines, which is seeking one of two seats in the 19th U17 World Championships next year in Hamburg, Germany.

"They tried to stop Kiefer but we were ready for it," said RP coach Eric Altamirano, who drew 36 points from his bench players.

The scores:

First game:

RP (76)—Ravena 24, Rosenthal 7, Pabelt Ramos 0, Sacdi, Fiesta 4, Tang 5, Arellano 2, Rodriguez 4, Mendoza 2, Apilibaran 0

KAZAKHSTAN (51)—Kuzmin 10, Zhigalo 12, Shatov 8, Dagman 3, Morozov 4, Mamitov 3, Mochkov 2, Ovchinnikov 2, Nikitskiy 0, Filippov 0, Pavelkin 0

Quarters: 16-10, 35-24, 48-35, 76-51

Second game:

RP (62)—Ravena 27, Tang 0, Ramos 0, Fiel 4, Dionisio 4, Sacdi, Arellano 2, Nebrida 2, Pascual 5, Fiesta 5, Rodriguez 0

BAHRAIN (61)—Mohammed 16, Hamdan Ramzan 14, Sarah Hasan 7, Ahmed Jamal 5, Hasan Ali 2, Amin 0, Sayed Ahmed 0, Mohsen 2, Hussain Zaharan 0, Sheer Yousif 2, Abdulrahman 0, Al-Hamadi

Quarters: 8-17, 28-28, 44-41, 62-61

Ex-pros lift Manileño

ARMAND MANILEÑO threw big games from Nelio Marquez and Fred "Sir Excitement" Alvarez to nobler University of Santo Tomas, 97-72, and keep its hopes alive in the 2003 MBL Invitational basketball tournament at the Quezon gym in Intramuros, Manila.

ALVAREZ

Marquez, who played for NoDA in the PBA, fired 24 points, including seven three-point shots to lead Armand Manileño to its third win in five outings in the tournament organized by the Milwaukee Basketball League.

Alvarez finished with 23 points, including several electrifying shots in the choked area.

Another ex-pro, Christine Hodge, added 15 points for Armand Manileño, which is being managed by former TIP standout Jun Agustin and Arnel Dia.

Jovic Yong topscored with 27 points for the Tigers who suffered their second straight loss.

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino
Sunday BIZ
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RP kids' spending power now at ₱47B

By Dinelra L. Lucas

DON'T LOOK NOW, but Filipino children may just end up playing a significant role in ensuring that the local economy rebounds from the crisis at a healthy clip.

In short, the latest survey of cable television's channel Cartoon Network shows that local kids (ages the age of seven to 14) have increased their economic power sharply over the last two years.

The survey, called New Generations 2009, revealed that some 3.7 million kids in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao—the country's three largest and most economically powerful cities—will hold a combined stash of pocket money to P34.7 billion for the entire year.

On top of this, the chess-

Coloring Christmas a shade of 'green'

By Carrie Sabrenio-Manuma

WHAT BETTER GIFT CAN ONE give or receive this Christmas than something that is welcome, that can make a difference in people's lives, and make a meaningful impact on Mother Earth.

This holiday, Mahasi Shangri-La will put an emore usage its environmental advocacy—reviving the [illegible] initiated in Nomagreen, Boracay—to provide its staff, guests, partners and friends the chance to help out.

Through a project called "Dreaming of a Green Christ-

SHANGRI-LA's Marina Resort and Spa is a certified Manila and Bird Sanctuary in the Philippines.

IPOD Nano is seventh-first.

MACMERCURY may be located in the MacBook Pro.

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Coloring Christmas a shade of 'green'

For coverage B1

IPHONE 3GS has a PVC-free outlet.

ECHOStore products are natural and environment-friendly.

THE ALKTALIGHT label, Indigo, has used its signature bio-botanical upcultures to develop a range of skincare products that contain organic ingredients.

ANOTHER EchoStore product has distinct and flexible properties, making it a wonderful fashion accessory.

...ness," people are given the opportunity to "give" or "receive" and be the focus-person of as many trees as they need for a minimum pledge of P1,000 per seedling, anywhere in selected municipalities in Nueva Ecija, Quezon, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Zambales and Pangasinan.

The pledges can be made in the name of other people and be given as gifts this Christmas. The trees will be planted in the names of those persons in January by the hotel staff, business partners, guests, investors and friends of the Ips themselves.

But "Greening of a Group Initiative" is much more than just a tree planting program.

It is an endeavor aimed at getting as many people as it can—from hotel staff to patrons and guests, as well as families and friends—to participate in the project and assume greater ownership of their environment.

The hotel guests, whenever they are, will be very much a part of the process of nurturing their trees.

They will receive electronic certificates confirming their adoption of seedlings and regular updates on the development of their trees.

The updates will come from Makati Shangri-La's corporate social responsibility team, which takes care of the trees to participate with the Department of Natural Resources, the agency that facilitates the reforestation program of the Ips-controlled.

The hotel community in the area is also deeply involved in the reforestation of Ips, according to Patricia Gallardo, director of corporate social responsibility and sustainability of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts.

Eco-friendly gifts

To spice up the project, Makati Shangri-La prepared a list of "green" gifts for some of the hotel's project participants.

These include eco-friendly gadgets such as Apple iPod Nano, iPhone, MacBook Pro, an Asus U6V bamboo laptop, a custom-crafted bamboo bike from Kowa on Tech, a coffee table made 100 percent out of recycled glass and steel called "Oasis" from Eng Chen, and Echo Store's fashionable bags made of pull tabs from aluminum cans.

Participants also have the chance to go on a hot-hopping and enjoy two-night stays at the Shangri-La Boracay Resort and Spa—a carbon-neutral resort and first one to in the Visayas.

Makati Shangri-La believes that the Christmas season is the best time to create a safe and cozy body's attention is focused.

"Our mission here is not to go and crash the world what to do. It's Christmas, we give gifts and we just want to tell the people that if they are buying a phone or a gadget, they may want to consider these types for they appear to be the greenest options," says Klassen, who is one of the project's prime movers.

"I just felt it is an all-around, complete response, for everybody that makes as much sense in the release of Christmas," he adds.

Complete experience

As part of the hotel's corporate responsibility program, the Greening project is definitely not a one-time thing.

It spans beyond the holiday season and, perhaps, a lifetime even of life to many.

"When it comes to corporate social responsibility I think we should not be opportunistic by choosing only the projects that will get us the biggest exposure. I believe we should be in projects that are relevant. That identified, we should do it for a long time or at least until the time talents are run any are really achieved something," he says.

"The aim is to plant at least 100,000 trees by January and this should continue hopefully until such time that we can look at or can see," Sec. Cheryl says.

The idea of getting people to buy and give trees as Christmas presents started in December last year and Klassen and his CSR team thought it best to go full blast on to this coming holiday.

"But while we continue something, we down this year a little bit to make it more exciting and meaningful. Thus, the gifts which are in environment friendly in the program itself. They are not only gifts, but they can also serve as tools to create awareness," says the Swiss executive of Makati Shangri-La.

What's 'green' in iPod?

Most of the gifts are obviously eco-environment friendly. The custom-crafted "Bamboo Bike" from Kowa on Tech and Asus' Bamboo Laptop—which both used bamboo materials for the the cover and casing—aim to promote sustainable development through lightweight technology and materials, reforestation and the planting of bamboo.

Products from Echo Store and Eng Chen promote recycling and the use of all-natural raw materials. The Shangri-La Boracay and Shangri-La Mactan experience invite people to harness appropriate nature.

But most people want to know what's green in the iPod Nano, iPhone and MacBook?

Gallardo and her team are convinced that these Apple products are among the most eco-friendly gadgets around.

"The entire concept of these products—the designs and production process involved...is an ultimate multi-pronged consideration of the environment."

These gadgets are supposedly keen to emission and in energy use, she says.

The iPhone 3G embodies Apple's continuing environmental progress, according to the materials used by Makati Shangri-La. Its printed circuit boards are bromine-free, and the LCD display is mercury-free.

The iPod Nano is arsenic and mercury-free, and is highly recyclable.

The use of LED in the MacBook PRO eliminates the need for the use of hazardous materials such as mercury and arsenic.

"These simple considerations when choosing which products to buy and establishments to patronize, are already a big help to the environment, and that is what Greening of a Green Christmas' is trying to tell to people," says Gallardo.

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RP kids' spending power now at P47B

graphic group will also receive a combined P3.6 billion as gift money from parents, grandparents, godparents, and the like.

All told, Filipino children hold an estimated P47 billion in spending power according to Jimmy Cua who is vice president for regional entertainment advertising sales of Turner Entertainment Networks Asia Inc.

Economic force

This latest figure represents a 15.5-percent increase in kids' spending power compared to the P37 billion reported in the 2007 edition of the Nine Consultants survey.

"When you think about it, kids are an economic force to be evaluated with," he says. "They affect a lot of purchasing decisions made by families."

Cua flew in recently from Hong Kong to present the results of the survey in the media, and also to convince more local advertisers to use their cable channel Cartoon Network, touting its unique access to young viewers.

The 2009 survey reveals that television continues to be the "only, universal daily medium" used by children, with 98 percent of all 7- to 14-year-olds watching TV on a daily basis.

Not surprisingly, the survey also shows that Internet use has skyrocketed in recent years, with 89 percent of Filipino children now finding their way online everyday.

Heat, Internet use is now the second most important daily activity for Filipino children, shooting up from its number five ranking in 2007.

Sadly, the same is the case as of reading non-school books, which slipped from the second spot to number five over the last two years. Only 28 percent of Filipino children now make a daily habit of reading non-school books, the survey shows.

Rise of video games

Listening to music held its third place spot, with 76 percent of Filipino children naming this as a daily activity.

Playing handheld video games also rose in the seventh spot from ninth two years ago, while reading newspapers dropped down a notch to eighth from the seventh spot in 2007.

Nine percent of Filipino children aged seven to 14 read newspapers, the survey says.

"We've seen a significant shift in recent years, especially in terms of Internet use," Cua says.

Because of this Cartoon Network has also developed a large stash of online content, which complements the cartoons and children programs it airs on its cable channel.

This is important to note as important when setting the results of the survey which showed that 79 percent of Filipino children go online to play games, while another 61 percent do so to socialize.

"That is why we've put a lot of these on our website, which is the most visited website by Filipino kids," Cua says.

The survey shows that, in total, ABS-CBN is the top network of choice for Filipino kids, with 28 percent choosing the channel over the 22 percent that chose ABC 5 and the 20 percent that chose GMA Network.

Cartoon Network came in fourth with 12 percent of interviewed children choosing it as their favorite channel.

When restricted to cable television viewers alone, however, Cartoon Network shot up to the top of the chart, with 26 percent of children choosing it as their favorite.

The results also show why television remains the most dominant mode of advertising, consuming 77 percent of all advertising spending, he says.

43 million users

He notes, however, that the Internet is becoming an increasingly important advertising medium, especially in the Philippines, which now has an estimated 43 million users. 7.7 percent of whom access the Web as Internet cafés, while another 27 percent do it from their homes.

At the same time, the country has about 90 million mobile phone users for a 86-percent penetration rate—another prospective market for Cartoon Network, he says.

"We develop a lot of content and we're very good at offering value and marketing initiatives that cover our platforms," Cua notes.

So far, the firms that have jumped in to take advantage of the network's influence on children's purchasing decisions include fast-moving consumer goods—FMCG—manufacturers, confectionery firms and toy makers, he says.

Cua expects the recovering Philippine economy to come to a boon for the network and its advertisers.

"At the start of the year, we were expecting ad spending to decline by 5% to 10 percent," he says. "But now, looking back, we can see that it has, in fact, grown by five to six percent."

That can only mean that good things are in store for the network, for the Philippine economy and, most importantly, for 9.9 million kids who love cartoons.

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At DHL, workers take on pivotal decision roles

By Amy R. Remo

SINGAPORE—BECOMING THE FIRST brand of choice of every customer requires a great deal of hard work and painstaking effort on the part of a company. And most firms, particularly those in the service industry, have largely focused off their resources to achieve this goal.

But only a handful of firms can truly claim to have done so.

Logistics firm Deutsche Post DHL is, however, confident that it will attain the top spot in customer loyalty worldwide as early as 2012, as it banks on the "unleashed" potential of its employees, and its so-called First Choice program.

"First Choice is not a program but a mindset. We want to build a culture where excellence and constant improvement are second nature. First Choice aims to enable each employee across all levels of the organization," says Hermann Ude, CEO of DHL Global Forwarding, Freight.

Ude explains that First Choice is actually a five-step program that will train, equip and empower DHL employees to analyze their own work procedures, identify problems in processes and systematically develop solutions to improve their efficiency.

To seamlessly manage the introduction of individual initiatives and projects worldwide, DHL defines the program through a methodology called the DHARC circle.

DHARC refers to Define (what is the customer's problem?); Measure (how big is the problem?); Analyze (what are the root causes of the problem?); Improve (how can we improve/solve the problem?); and Control (how do we measure improvement?).

Under the First Choice program, the employees themselves would be carrying out these processes in their respective divisions. DHL is effectively passing on a huge responsibility to its employees, allowing them to come up with their own initiatives and implement these as well—a move few companies may risk for fear.

Ude stressed that the success of First Choice—in terms of being able to produce significant improvements in DHL—will rest in the hands of its almost 500,000 employees.

DHL believes that if a company wants to put something into motion in an international business group, it will need motivated and dedicated employees, as well as powerful tools, that will enable each individual to optimally contribute his or her experience.

"This is where First Choice comes in. The service initiative systematically taps the problem-solving potential of almost 500,000 employees to achieve a lasting level of service and customer love," Ude said.

This approach is based on the idea that every employee is an expert in his or her job and, as a result, has the deepest insights into any potential for improvements. Thus, the employees is empowered to create and realize those solutions that will further improve the service levels of DHL.

Started in 2007, the First Choice methodology was initially tested and improved in eight pilot projects.

Since the test phase was concluded, 220 group units—representing more than 50 percent of the company's consolidated revenues—have been implementing the First Choice program. Over 5,000 initiatives have already been started out and 6,500 workshops conducted.

"The spectrum of the improvements implemented and today ranges from better delivery schedules in the Express division and upgraded complaint management in DHL Global Forwarding to more efficient warehousing solutions at DHL Supply Chain," Ude adds.

In the Philippines, DHL cited a specific case where the First Choice team was able to devise an innovative facility system, slashing invoice turnaround time from 3.7 days to only one day.

According to DHL, investing must be a straightforward process, but this has not been the case for DHL Global Forwarding Philippines.

The local air freight team took almost four days to process an invoice and to pass this to the finance department.

A First Choice initiative had helped employees cut their turnaround time by an impressive 75 percent. DHL data showed.

(CT/MB, RC)

3 ways systems maximize our lives

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Manwell

FROM A HIGH LEVEL, WE have already looked at how systems benefit our leadership. I'd like us go a little deeper by sharing specific systems that have aided me on my leadership journey. I trust the following tips will help guide your thinking as you build systems into your regular routine.

1. Systems decrease life's chaos

In the accelerated pace of the modern world, information bombards us from every angle. The best systems improve our productivity by curing clutter and keeping us focused.

Here are four suggestions to combat life's chaos:

A. Create systems for everyday activities—Think of systems to keep your work in front of you. For instance, I put several different-colored folders in my briefcase so that I won't spend lots of time digging around to find what I want. Because I file by color, I immediately know where to look.

Brainstorm shortcuts to save time. When I moved to Atlanta, one of the best things

CONTINUED ON B5

Home is where a special duck is

Text and photos by Clarice Cutaling-Pasamba
Inquirer Southern Luzon

VICTORIA, LAGUNA—A FOOD duck recipe developed by couple Angelo Ibarrete, 44, and Esmeraldo, 39, celebrates in how customers to their home here in Barangay San Benito.

Only a small lighted sign in front of their home marks where Sallyanne's "Kinilaw na Itik" is located, but the tasty flavor of the fried duck has won over loyal customers, including municipal employees and even students on field trips.

Fried duck, which is known as "kinilaw na itik" in Victoria—a fourth-class municipality 90 kilometers south of Manila—is a specialty of the town.

Word of mouth about the quality of Sallyanne's kinilaw has lured buyers from other communities, bypassing numerous other sellers of kinilaw in town.

In Manila, where the couple also bring their kinilaw, the product has also become a best-seller.

Vitas Flores, municipal social welfare and development officer, says Sallyanne's cooking tickles her palate the most because of its unique taste. She says she usually orders kinilaw from the couple for special occasions in the municipality and has highly recommended it to visitors.

Ingredients

The couple has their jobs 18 years ago.

In 1996, Esmeraldo began helping her mother sell various items in Victoria while nearing for job opportunities.

ESMERALDA and Angelo Ibarrete (above) were able to put up a house in Victoria, Laguna. (LEFT) In the "kinilaw na itik" shop-makeup (right).

Meanwhile, her husband was learning how to cook kinilaw from a cousin.

He experimented until he got the right amount and mixture of ingredients that would result in a distinctive flavor.

Angelo first removes the duck feathers and internal organs before boiling the duck in water three times for four hours, depending on its age, until the duck's meat is tender. Then the duck must be deep-fried until it becomes crisp.

(MPM, RC)

Experts take the cheesy way to land a world record

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

SECURING A PLACE IN A BOOK OF world records has never been this cheesy.

With enough imagination and resourcefulness—something Filipinos are full of—the country's culinary experts have embarked on a quest to craft at least 5,000 unique kinds of cheese dishes, topping the best the previous Guinness world record of 4,000 set by makers in India.

It doesn't matter whether it's an appetizer, main dish, or dessert—chef's here versus the cheese as—so long as it's clearly from an original recipe, it counts.

Spearheaded by Keith Eden, "A Yummy and Inspiring Christmas" is an activity that is aimed to showcase the Filipino food culture as a unique, and utterly tasty experience.

"It's also a way to bring back the smile this Christmas, especially to people who have been greatly affected by storms Ondoy and Pepeng," says Alex Jose Teodoro, Keith Foods brand manager.

Keith Eden is a brand of cheese famous for its "creamy and nutritious buttermilk flavor" fortified with Lacto-Sigh nutrients. It has been flavoring Filipino dishes for the past 46 years.

In the Philippines, Keith Eden is situated at the pack with a 66-percent share of the market, Teodoro says.

"As a leader in the industry, we felt it was our responsibility to give back to our customers for patronizing us for so long," he says.

The use of a local network takes advantage of Filipinos' love for social networking and blogging. In the recently-done, million-entry hosted on Facebook and Twitter.

"The Filipinos demonstrated how they can move collectively and act as one through the use of these online media, coordinating rescue and relief efforts as they did during the recent calamities. We'd like to capture that boundless spirit and translate it to this activity," he says.

"Filipinos are really pull through the darkest times, and find over the simplest things and help lift one's spirits," he adds.

To collect at least 5,000 original recipes, individuals are urged to post their suggestions at www.cookingchallenge.com.

To ensure that no duplication of recipes will occur, a screening committee will check each submission.

"There will also be chefs and homecooks from stores who may modify the recipes if need be, if only to make the dishes healthier and more homey," says Teodoro.

The organizers hope to entice homemakers—the most who usually have the best say on what food will be served on the table—to submit their recipes. Still, everyone is welcome.

In fact, many culinary schools have already pledged to help create their own cheese dishes with the help of their students.

The recipes can be something your grandmother has handed down to you or the result of an experiment in your own kitchen, Teodoro says.

On Dec. 14, as soon as 5,000 people—cooking enthusiasts, culinary students, chefs and hostess—are expected to gather at the Sarmen Coliseum with their cooked dishes, the recipes of which they have posted online.

The dishes will feed 1,000 children, chosen by their parishes mostly ABS-CBN Foundation, from those among the most affected by the recent storms.

To make the effort more meaningful, Teodoro says, the organizers will also choose nine similar-food towns, where they will share with the world, the residents' choice, "so everyone can understand better" what people had to go through to survive.

"With this event, we hope to bring pride, creativity in the women, and hope amid the recent calamities."

According to Teodoro, Keith Eden still managed to grow its business despite the storms and the global economic crisis.

"We were not affected by the financial crisis at all. We owe the success to the people who continue to be loyal to us," he says.

Beating the land of activity a bit appropriate for the country, he says, as the Philippines is the "gold standard in making cheese," exporting products to Ghana, Indonesia, and Australia, among others.

And the meaningful effort does not end with the hoped-for record-setting event.

Teodoro says there are plans to put the collected recipes in a single cookbook.

"We're very confident we can get at least 5,000 recipes. In a country that loves foods, boasting of various culinary traditions, [producing] 5,000 dishes may be a piece of, well, cheese," he says.

At DHL . . .

From page B1

During the workshops conducted, employees answered several ice-breaker questions and revealed their roots of the employees were aware of their responsibilities. These also showed that a few simple learning moments were the key to becoming more efficient at work.

"By simplifying many of the steps, setting individual measuring targets daily and encouraging other primary functions and working environment, it was relatively easy to resolve the root causes," the document quotes Judith Alatorre, process improvement advisor of DHL Philippines, as saying.

Ubi meanwhile says that the First Choice philosophy pays off not only for customers first improved services, but for customers as well.

"After all, the world's largest logistics group must deliver the best possible service to remain the market leader. Only those customers who receive optimal service to go along with high quality work, performance will develop strong ties to their logistics providers," Ubi explains.

"At the same time, the chances of customers recommending Deutsche Post DHL to other potential customers will increase—one of the most critical requirements for continued business growth and the group's appeal to investors."

Home is where a special duck is

From page B1

Garlic and onions are added during the boiling process. At this point, Bojalbo removes the other ingredients from the mixture.

"The secret is to put in the right amount of ingredients to remove the duck's pungent taste."

Customers return for this particular mixture which makes his kinilaw special, he says.

Bilo-to Bojalbo, 28, who lives in another barangay goes to Pedrosa's because the kinilaw is "clean and has a different bite."

"Others provide sauce with their kinilaw, but the kinilaw here tastes better even without a sauce," he says.

Survival

The couple started their enterprise with P600, working up to 50 pieces of kinilaw a day.

At that time, each duck costs only P50 apiece. The couple sold the kinilaw at P30 each on Rizal Avenue in Manila where Bojalbo's sibling was also selling vegetables.

Sales were brisk, prompting them to cook more than 100 pieces today.

The Bojalbos were able to put up their own house using the money they earned from their business. They made sure that the kitchen in their one-story concrete dwelling had ample space.

But sales have become uneven since November of 2008 to October last August.

It has also become difficult for the couple to buy ducks for a low price, especially after the damage wrought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" to the duck industry.

Still, they manage to cook about 40 to 50 kinilaw a day which they sell at their house.

"There is no more need for us to travel to sell the cultured kinilaw or of the town center," as customers now hunted us regularly come to our house to buy kinilaw, said Bojalbo.

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Sample Computations based on a P1,000,000 Capital Investment

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2016 Variant					
3G16-100	P1,000,000	P1,100,000	P1,325,000	P1,438,000	P1,250,000
3G16-112	P1,120,000	P1,164,000	P1,259,000	P1,305,000	P1,250,000
3G16-118	P1,180,000	P1,196,000	P1,231,000	P1,248,000	P1,250,000
2019 Variant					
3G19-100	P1,000,000	P1,121,000	P1,687,000	P1,891,000	P1,250,000
3G19-121	P1,210,000	P1,300,000	P1,681,000	P1,941,000	P1,250,000

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Edna Arles Espinosa

BPI Asset Management wins accolade in The Asset Triple A Investment Awards

BPI ASSET MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN named as Best Asset Management Company, Philippines in The Asset Triple A Investment Awards 2009.

BPI Asset Management retains a dominant market share of the asset management business in the Philippines, managing over 380 billion pesos in assets, representing 22 percent industry share among 30 market players as of June 30, 2009.

Its vast pool of institutional and retail clients consists of 400 institutional accounts, including several government institutions and top corporations in the Philippines and 44,000 individual clients.

BPI Asset Management's industry leadership is backed by the complete line of asset products and services it offers, highly experienced pool of investments and asset professionals and state-of-the-art system infrastructure.

BPI Asset Management has a long history of experience in money management and has the prestige of being the only local bank qualified to be a third party custodian on the strength of its Custody rating of 1.

The Asset Triple A Investment awards comes on the heels of recognition earlier this year from the Reader's Digest Asia's Trusted Brands where BPI Asset Management won Gold for the third straight year.

The Asset Triple A Investment Awards is Asia's defining recognition for excellence for the leading investment companies in the Asia-Pacific. The Triple A Awards methodology adopts a rigorous approach to the selection of the best institutions and products throughout the region. After detailed analysis of the submissions, point scores for both quantitative and qualitative factors are combined in the determination of the winners.

The Asset is the leading finance publication for Asian corporates and global investors active in the region. The magazine specializes in providing analysis and insight into how Asia's leading companies think and manage their capital, as well as the buying behavior of global investors active in Asia's markets. The Asset is published by Haymarket Publishing and Research Ltd.

CITY SAVINGS BANK JOINS BANCNET

Cebu-based City Savings Bank, a 76-year bank and member of the Alsons Group, recently signed up with BancNet and is now a member of the country's largest ATM network. Present during the signing ceremonies were (from left): Security Bank executive vice president Patricia May Sy; president and chief executive officer Roberto S. Villanueva, City Savings Bank president and chief executive officer Alberto A. Martin, BancNet chairman Rizaldy R. Chua, president Francisco M. Delgado Jr. and City Savings Bank senior vice president Agnes B. Lacson.

Product Files

Experience coffee like never before

ADD A REFRESHING NEW TWIST to your caffeine fix with Universal Robina Corp.'s (URC) newest creation, Coffee Twist. This line of ready-to-drink (RTD) coffee will definitely perk you up in the most delicious way, anytime of the day.

For those who want something strong and straightforward, Coffee Twist Classic is definitely the best bet with its sweet concoction of pure barako blend coffee, tender and thick cold refreshing beverage, which is sure to warm in love. There are two flavors that complement the richness of black coffee: Hazelnut, which is a bit on the sweet and nutty side, and Orange, with just the right hint of tanginess. Coffee Twist is conveniently packaged in cool and bottles, perfect for young and active individuals on the go. Grab a few from the inventory of your usual grocery/sari-sari and be unexpectedly rejuvenated with new Coffee Twist. Refreshing coffee, anytime, anywhere. Now available in leading supermarkets, groceries and convenience stores nationwide.

Selecta Gold Series' newest indulgence

SELECTA GELATI BLISS, IN ITS PASSION to satisfy your deepest dessert cravings, presents a new indulgence with the new Vanilla Almond Ice cream. This mouthwatering masterpiece is loaded with roasted almonds from California's Great Valley, blended generously with ribbons of golden caramel fudge and laced against a backdrop of extra creamy, velvety vanilla ice cream. The latest luxurious addition to Selecta's line of extra-creamy premium ice cream, Selecta Gold Series Vanilla Almond is ice cream bliss at its finest and is a must-have for culinary experts, chef Ariel Manuel and Julie Dad's Cake.

Savory possibilities with Payless Pancit Shanghai

PAYLESS PANCIT SHANGHAI BRINGS noodle lovers a variety of ways to savor its delicious and distinctly oriental flavor with yet more ways to prepare it. From creating an mouth-watering ingredient to adding more enticing spices. Satisfy your cravings with this diverse and tasty ways you can enjoy the flavors of the Orient, and reward yourself with the infinite and delicious possibilities of Payless Pancit Shanghai. Available at a budget-friendly price, every household can enjoy an energy-giving and fat-flavored meal anytime and anywhere. It comes in Plain Thick and Chinese Style variants and is available in leading supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

Goldilocks' new 'Bibbit' combinations

THE GOLDILOCKS "BIBBIT" PACK HAS BECOME a staple among Filipino families - as a favorite merienda, school lunch or 'pasalubong.' Goldilocks' introduces four new "Bibbit" combinations: the "Cake Slices Bibbit", which includes the beloved Goldilocks Cake Slice, the Chewy Mango Cheesecake Slice, the Chewy Pineapple "Bibbit", which also includes a pack of Caramel Popcorn. If you're craving for quick bites, then the same pack of Caramel Popcorn can be paired with a box of Assorted Polvoron, or a Cheesecake Roll. Have some today.

Get outstanding protection for your radiator

ONE VULNERABLE PART OF THE car that should be kept in check is the radiator, which is a critical function in the engine as the "heat exchanger." To maintain the engine's best operating temperature and prevent overheating, the coolant transfers heat from the coolant to the air blown by the fan. Cooling system maintenance, however, is overlooked by many motorists. Don't use as faulty as it at home using reliable products such as Prestone Coolant. It's as easy as flushing out the entire from your radiator completely and pouring in Prestone Coolant concentrate, half-filled, and then will with distilled water. Likewise, regularly up to speed by using Prestone Ready-to-use, a pre-blend Prestone concentrate and distilled water in the radiator which has a boiling point of only 100 C. Prestone Coolant can reach as high as 150 C. It's an effective boiling retardant that helps fight overheating. Rain or shine, night or day, Prestone Coolant offers year-round protection.

The Kwik convenience

SHARING ITS KWIK BRUTT INSECT KILLER AND KWIK Mosquito Killer, there's no need to sacrifice your budget for your family's safety. Kwik aerosol insecticides are 26 percent more affordable than the leading brand and easier to use than the conventional pump spray - just one press of a button knocks down insects. We need to be concerned not with scavenging and scrapping multiple times during the day. And although thanks is more affordable, it offers you quality protection for you and your family with the most modern and safe ingredients, giving you more bang for your buck. Kwik Multi-Insect Killer is odorless and has a fresh lemon scent while Kwik Mosquito Killer is water-based and odorless. Both is available in aerosol/pump and Mercury Drug outlets nationwide.

Bits & Clips

Tips for X-mas shoppers

THE PHILIPPINES, THE only Christian country in Asia, celebrates the longest Christmas. By September we can already hear Christmas tunes and songs in the air and commercials touting Christmas promotions. For some budget-conscious shoppers, they start looking around for Christmas gifts for friends and relatives because prices for goods and products are still much cheaper. And discounting this time the crowds in the shopping mall are lesser. But as December nears, prices will be higher and buyers will be more. For Christmas shoppers an ideal place to visit is the Glorietta, Ayala's flagship shopper's haven. The Midnight Sale Weekend will be held from Dec. 10 to 20. The special trade fair is expected to be crowded by shoppers and bargain hunters looking for high-quality fashion-priced products and goods as gifts. Tanggolang Henry G. Dalisay, officer-in-charge for Glorietta, says that the best deal for his hard-earned money. Dalisay said that the Midnight Sale is the only one of its kind in Glorietta. By this way, they can ensure easily and more comfortably. But beware of pick pockets and slashers. They thrive where there is a big crowd. Shoppers can get a much lower price of goods and services in bargain especially if they know how to haggle prices. Hint: Sellers says you must have a complete list of all the items you plan to buy and stick to the list. This purpose is that to prevent you from impulsive buying. Take check how much cash or credit you can spend. But when shopping, go around and compare prices. For example, while shopping at the bargain go from one booth to another. Check the merchandise. See if it is okay. Check for rips, tears, dirt or smears. Ask the price, then the price you want. If the seller is reluctant, give a higher price. If the seller is still reluctant, pretend to leave or transfer to another booth.

Boracay artist exhibit at Fairways and Bluewater

BEYOND THE SPIN IS BEACH FUN! BORACAY IS famous for are hidden treasures the island environment has been keeping - its people. As the island is approaching its high season, it has also become the perfect time to reveal the secrets. One hidden treasure is fashion artist and painter Antonio "Paolo" San Jose, who descends from a prominent clothing family in Malate. Paolo's passion for the human body in his paintings was acclaimed by the French and European fashion industry of the 80's and 90's. He is what he calls "the architect of the human form." True to his words, the artworks are painstakingly sketched and plotted with a considerations of every dot per square inch carefully applied by each sensitive stroke of genius. In his fourpiece work of large canvas painting, entitled "Transcends", the paintings document the cultural history of the day-to-day lives of the Malay people, or what he calls "my cherished reminiscences of." Paolo is the only accredited Filipino fashion artist of the highest European circle - Societe Internationale Prevention Des Createurs, Paris, France. The artwork collection is on exhibit at the Bleu Room - Clubhouse of Fairways and Bluewater Resort in Boracay beginning May 17. For more information, contact +63(36)288-5687 or 88.

Acle's new president

LUMES LASANGAN, the head of the specialized advisory services (SAS) division of Forronghayan and Ayuala (FAA), the Philippine member firm within Grant Thornton International Ltd., has been elected president of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA). He took office on July 1, 2009 and will end on Dec. 31, 2010. Lily has been active in several professional organizations and was also the president of the Philippine Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) in 2005. Lily started, developed and led the firm's business risk services and until it was combined this year with FAA's business advisory services to form the SAS division. She also held the positions of audit division director four years and supervised the firm's corporate advisory services for a number of years. Lily is a certified public accountant (CPA), certified internal auditor (CIA), certified fraud examiner (CFE), and certified control self-assessment (CCSA) professional.

SUN LIFE INKS MOA WITH ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Sun Life Financial Philippines (SLFP) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), one of the country's premier graduate schools in management, to offer a 12-month Certified Financial Planner for Sun Life agents. The course, to be conducted by AIM, will train Sun Life agents to be financially-sound planning and wealth management. Successfully completing the course will earn for the graduates the title Sun Life-AIM Financial Planner. At the contract signing were (from left): professor Maria Elena O. Ventura, program director, CPE, AIM; professor Gracia G. Ejercy, associate dean, Executive Education; Ed T. Ocampo, dean of the Institute, AIM; Gilberto C. de Jesus, president of the Institute, AIM; Rita Manahan, president and CEO, SLFP; Tony Pallanca, CEO-Sun Life Asset Management; Ger Nacorda, chief agency distribution officer, and Val Salem, chief human resources officer of SLFP.

SURE HELP FOR WATER-LOGGED HOPE CENTER

A technician from Solutions Using Renewable Energy Inc (SURE), sets up a solar panel for the flooded center of HOPE Laguna, the local arm of international charity group HOPE Worldwide. SURE (www.sure.com.ph), one of the country's most active and diversified renewable energy firms, donated a solar lighting system upon hearing of the dismay candidates in HOPE Laguna. The center for disaster victims was submerged in four feet of water since Typhoon Ondoy struck the country last September. The center needs the alternative energy source because its supply of electricity from Meralco has been cut off for safety reasons due to the flooding. HOPE Laguna (www.hopeweph.org) is operating for more help for 30 children in its program, not to mention its employees, who have been likewise displaced by the flooding.

EXXONMOBIL DONATES TO RED CROSS TYPHOON RELIEF EFFORTS

ExxonMobil Exploration and Production Philippines BV, operator of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) with $25,000 to help in disaster relief efforts for the victims of Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng. Committed to being a responsible company to the communities, ExxonMobil has been actively involved in oil and exploration activities under the Department of Energy (DOE)'s Service Contract 46 in the South China Sea. Photo shows ExxonMobil Philippine managing director Ian A. Rucker handing the check donation to Senator and Philippine National Red Cross Chair Richard Gordon.

CEEZINC SETS UP JUICE KIOSK IN MERCURY R. HOYAL BRANCH OPENING

Just recently, Mercury Drugstore opened its R. Hoyal branch in Ermita, Manila. CeeZinc joined in the festivities and set up a juice kiosk in front of the pharmacy. The CeeZinc booth gave free served highlighted the similar yummy orange flavor of CeeZinc Vitamin Syrup to Kids. CeeZinc has the combination of vitamin C and zinc that helps strengthen the immune system and boosts normal performance for healthier kids and active kids. CeeZinc Vitamin Syrup is available in Mercury Drugstore branches nationwide.

IT'S BABY'S TIME TO SHINE

It was a day of fun and learning experience as the companions called 'Its Baby's Time to Shine' held in Robbins Makati. And this Saturday- little tikes to moms and dads about the healthy day of celebration and interesting activities. Pharmaceutical Philippines senior Geraldine Wong talked about the advantages that a child gave with enjoy in today's world. She introduced their latest product, that while is 2 years (BSTs), to truly help babies learn English and Chinese in a fun and exciting way. Robbins Baby Ambassador Donnalee also took the stage and gave tips on how to properly care for baby's sensitive skin. Meanwhile, Lito Tamisin of Physics showed innovative baby feeding products. The highlight of the event was the launch of Robbins Baby Shine, with Pharmaceutical Philippines senior Geraldine Wong talked about the advantages that a child gave with enjoy in today's world. She introduced their latest product, that while is 2 years (BSTs), to truly help babies learn English and Chinese in a fun and exciting way. Robbins Baby Ambassador Donnalee also took the stage and gave tips on how to properly care for baby's sensitive skin. Meanwhile, Lito Tamisin of Physics showed innovative baby feeding products. The highlight of the event was the launch of Robbins Baby Shine, with Pharmaceutical Philippines senior Geraldine Wong and Robbins Baby Ambassador Yang Lee. He presented breakthrough creations to parents on teaching their babies the English and Chinese language. The participants went home enriched with valuable teaching tips that they could immediately apply to further ensure their baby's communication development. The Week to Learn 2009 event was available in major department stores and baby centers nationwide. Shown are (from left): Geraldine Wong, Tiffany, Hans, and Timothy Wong, Geraldine Lily Wong with Phoenix fans Sally-Ann Pagsolin Mendel, Pia Trillo, and Yang Lee.

SHIN, FELI CONTRACT SIGNING

Shangri-La Properties Inc (SPI), owner and developer of Subic-Bay-based Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa, and Shin Corporation, a leading Thai conglomerate, have entered a marketing agreement with Feli Hotel Sales Inc (Feli). At present, SPI's main building, Villa Estrella is slated to be finished by the second quarter of 2010. Villa is fully-operational as accommodation for hotel guests and is also used for conferences and other events. Photo shows (seated from left): Cathy Reyna-Ty, CEO and CFO, Feli; and Khun Kanisak S. Dhiravegin, chairman and CEO, SPI. Consuelo T. Paz, consultant, Feli; and Robert Henry Ross III, director, VP, administration, SPI, presiding from left): Elaine De Leon, Feli; Khun Michael Chan, SP; Feli; James Aguilla, SVP, Feli; Erik Andrew R. Chanco, VP, finance, SPI; and Jessica Acuba, VP, sales and marketing, SPI.

ENERGIZER DONATES TO 'ONDOY' VICTIMS

Energizer has donated hundreds of alkaline batteries and Energizer E-Go phone chargers worth P600,000 to victims of tropical storm Ondoy. The donations were received through the GMA-7 Kapuso Foundation, the National Disaster Coordinating Council, and the Philippine National Red Cross. Energizer's long lasting batteries and Energizer's battery-powered cellular phone chargers are now considered emergency kit essentials because they provide portable power especially during calamities when prolonged power interruptions happen.

French travel agents soak up sun, sea and sand in CamSur

Tour operators get first-hand feel of islands they'll promote

THE sun sets on the Langisan rock formation in Caramoan.

TAYAK boats in Caramoan Bay.

A leader's way

From page B4

I did was to drive different routes to gauge the distance and time needed to travel them. Now, I generally know the quickest routes in the city and I avoid the worst of its traffic as a result.

B. Plan your week ahead—I plan a whole month ahead by looking at my calendar, considering my major projects, and scheduling out the time needed to get them done. Mapping out my month helps me to be strategic and intentional with each day. With experience, I have learned to put my family time on the calendar first. Otherwise, work creeps into my evenings and weekends and crowds out moments with my spouse or children.

C. Work in blocks of time—Finish one task before starting another. Every time I revisit an old project, I waste time trying to wrap my mind around it. If I had just concentrated on saving it through in the first place, then I wouldn't have the extra delays of restarting it.

D. Create a place to work undisrupted—Studies have shown that the average manager gets interrupted every eight minutes. Find a place to work free from distractions. When you need to meet on phones, go to their place. In doing so, you connect with their world, while also controlling how the conversation fits into your schedule.

2. Systems delegate your load

The most productive leaders are the ones who have honed systems to distribute their workload to a trusted team. Instead of trying to do everything alone, they equip those around them to handle responsibilities as opportunity. Consider these ways to share responsibilities.

A. Keep your load current twenty—Bring people around you so that you can stay quickly hand off the ball. For example, my assistant, Linda, goes to meetings with me. By attending, she's informed, and I don't have to spend precious time bringing her up to speed. Following the meeting, I'm not pressured to remember all of the action items because I know Linda can be trusted to follow through diligently on every detail.

B. Delegate everything possible—Delegate everything possible by following the 80-percent principle. List your responsibilities, and only focus personal time on the most important 20 percent. Delegate the remainder to the leaders around you.

C. Train people to handle problems before they get to you—My goal is to teach everyone here I think is the owner that they don't own issues.

For example, when I make decisions, I sit down with Linda, my assistant, and I explain why I made a decision. Next time I'm contracting her on what to do, I'm teaching her how I think. By now, after several years of working together, Linda can make decisions on my behalf 90 percent of the time without consulting me.

3. Systems designate time for people

Good systems promote connection between those with others. They leverage our influence by increasing the quantity and quality of time we spend in relationships.

Here are a few relational systems that can benefit your leadership.

A. Set aside time to connect with others—Develop a system to work a room. For instance, I seldom eat at business picnics or banquets so that I can walk around and talk to people. Who would I sense valuable time loading up on food, when I could connect with others?

Systematically connect with key players outside of routine meetings. Maybe this means getting together for an evening meal, or going to the theater or a ballgame. If you're short on time, handwrite a note of encouragement. In this age of e-communication, it's amazing how powerful a written card can be.

B. Make it your responsibility to know new people—As a pastor, I instructed our ushers to take pictures of new people and to bring it to me. Then, the ushers were the person's name on the back of the photograph and placed the picture on a key ring. During the week, I scrolled through the pictures and committed the names to memory. I was able to remember 2,000 names in our congregation, so because I saw brilliant, but because I had a good system.

C. Learn to say no—Repeat after me: "It sounds exciting. I would love to do it, but unfortunately I have another project that's taking all of my time." In other words, "NO!"

I have a "batches commitment" to guard my time. They are down-my speaking opportunities so that only the best ones get my attention. These gatekeepers protect me from overbooking myself and burning out.

How to start systems in your life today

- Examine life to see where you're losing the most time, and develop systems to minimize wasteful activities.
- Devise ways to delegate where you're weak, don't do what you can't do well. Get help.
- Carve out time to work privately and connect publicly. Then, make sure those times are kept separate.
- Rearrange your work environment to gain uninterrupted privacy.

Learn to lead from where you are. Attend the 360 Leader 2-day workshop at the John Maxwell certified facilitator Anthony Bengilmos on Nov. 24-25. Call Inspire Leadership Consultancy at 687-2614 or 0917-631-1333 to register.

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PILI, CAMARINES Sur—Nineteen French travel agents and operators visited Camarines Sur last weekend to savor and inspect the tourist sites and facilities available to foreign tourists.

The French visitors came here to personally see for themselves the sites and facilities they will be promoting in Europe, according to Arnold Gonzales, official of the Department of Tourism based in Europe, who accompanied them in their Caribbean tour.

The visit was the second one the DoT had initiated to promote and sell Caraboo as a prime tourist destination.

Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte welcomed the professional activity initiated by the DoT, saying that the tourism program he initiated four years ago continued to pay off.

Villafuerte said the countryside programs on tourism and information technology would continue to validate the program direction of the province.

Caraboo, he said, had tried to image as a province saddled with insurgency and poverty problems, and turned into a prime tourist destination that local and foreign travelers would come to visit again and again.

Courtesy of the Provincial Tourism Office, the French visitors enjoyed the facilities of the Caramoan Watersports Complex in the morning.

They were later brought to the Caramoan peninsula in the afternoon.

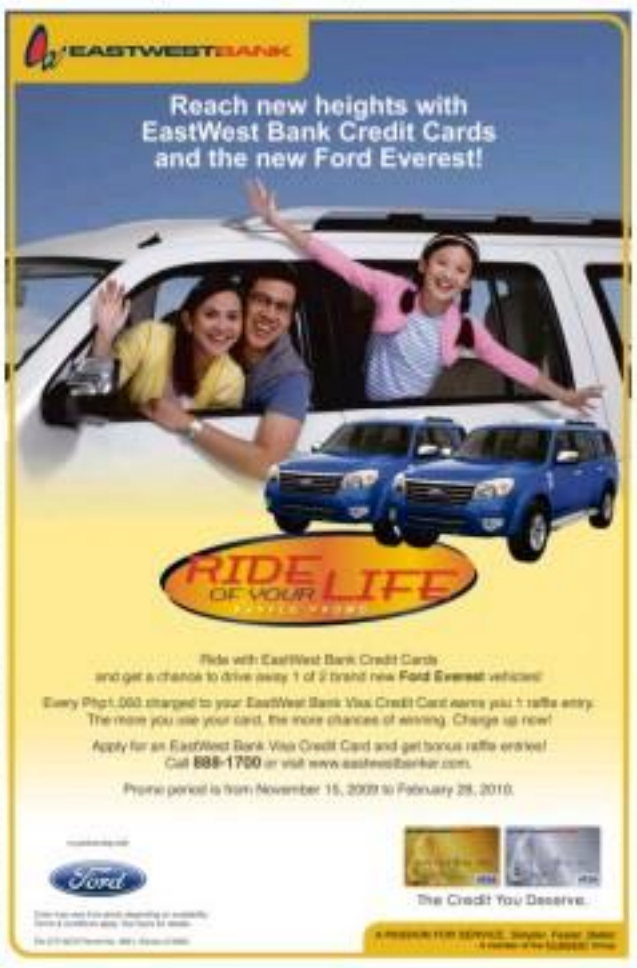
Lucia Menino Villanueva, acting provincial tourism officer, said the French visitors were brought to the Gota Beach Resort where they took off to visit other islands comprising the Caramoan peninsula.

Villanueva said that after the island-hopping—which brought them to Hunnagan, Manikad, Lahos and Tinalo—the French visitors went back to Gota Beach Resort for another surprise.

She said they expressed their appreciation of the natural wonders of the Caramoan peninsula and enjoyed swimming around the small islands, taking their time sunbathing.

Going back to Gota Beach Resort, the French visitors were treated to a cultural show and a video presentation of "Koh Lanta: Caramoan," the French version of the reality show shot in Caramoan.

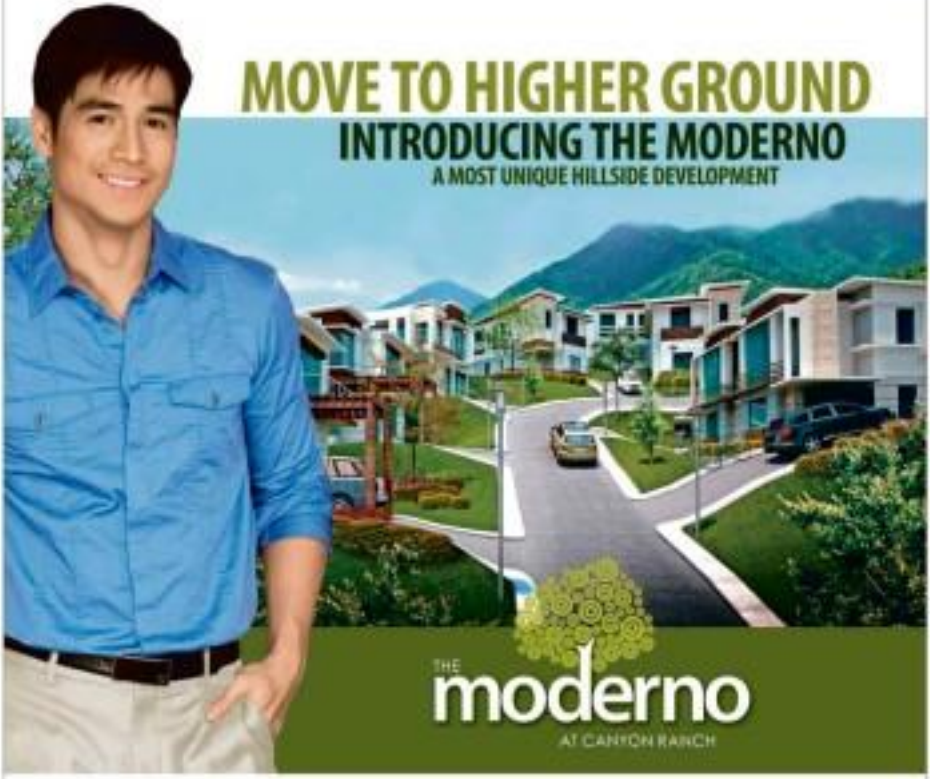
The "Koh Lanta: Caramoan" was shown in France with total viewers estimated at 12 million.



MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND

INTRODUCING THE MODERNO

A MOST UNIQUE HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT



After 15 years in showbiz, I've learned how to make the right decisions when it comes to my finances. And the safest and most fulfilling of all investments is real estate. As you become more and more accomplished in life, you are able to make better choices when buying your dream home. **Canyon Ranch**, rising 10 stories above sea level, and conveniently located just two exits from Alabang, has been one of the most successful gated residential communities in the south. And as it launches its third and newest phase, called **The Moderno**, with its breathtaking architecture, its great location, and its unbeatable value, I've decided to make it my next investment. Make it yours too.

Piolo Pascual

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

Editor Thelma Sinson San Juan

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"PACMAN" AND WIFE. The ocean itself is in no danger of falling.

Where was judgmental society when he, as a shoeless kid, was struggling on his own?

Leave Manny alone

By Lito Gutierrez
Contributor

HARDLY HAD THE WORLD welterweight crown settled on his head when Manny Pacquiao got a sucker punch that must have had him wishing he was still in the ring with Miguel Cotto.

The crown itself is in no danger of falling, at least for now, but his reputation is.

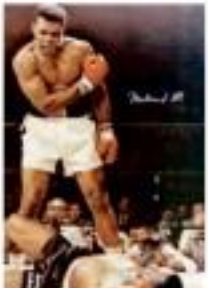
Ambushed by reporters in Las Vegas as he was preparing for what would be a heavy workout, the question came as quickly as the punches he threw that Cotto never saw coming: What's this thing with a model named Xilotte Bandin whom Pacquiao reportedly flew, along with his entire family, to Vegas to watch his fight?

Pacquiao fumbled and mumbled, and even reportedly raced his cellphone to parry the broadside of questions. He pleaded, "Can we not just talk about boxing?" Even expatriate misery of seeing about the subdivision, the endless wait, and would be his quite-a-while, simply no.

All-episode

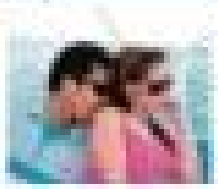
That episode reminds me of the Thalia in Manila rebuilt. I, then a cub reporter for an evening paper, was assigned to cover in the

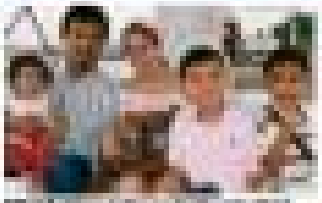
(MORE C2)

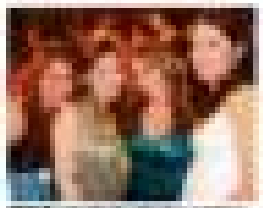


AT THRILLA in Manila, a long, hatred, abandoned drama was among Muhammad Ali's woes. She would become his third wife and bear him a female boxing champ, Laila Ali.

Leave Manny alone







Night of most sinful desserts

Should she leave her boyfriend to be with her first love?

DEAR EMILY,

Two years ago, I broke up with my boyfriend after a six-year relationship. We broke up because of the pressure around us which made things complicated. Long story short—we couldn't get along. He was my first love as I was his.

Then I met a new guy. He's such a good man. One of a kind. He's like literally new because of all the help he has extended to my family.

What bothers me a lot is my ex-boyfriend. He told me he never felt love again. He's still deeply in love with me. I felt the same way but I didn't want to hurt my present boyfriend. It would be unfair to him, so I left him. I felt so guilty because his life was ruined. He begged a lot. He lost his willingness to live. I yielded him since he didn't deserve that. So I decided to be with him again. I have been confused for a year now.

HONEY'99

There's only one heart in the body, and though it's sorry—it can only hold one love at a time. Believe it—despite what serial lovers profess.

You only go into a relationship because you passionately feel something toward another—never because you have a debt to pay and owes for pity! Don't stay with him because you pity him. Pity is a diminishing commodity. After a while, it leaves a bad taste in the mouth. Definitely not worth the stress to compromising your emotions.

Be honest with yourself. That's the only way you can respect yourself or live with yourself everyday. Do you realize how worry can make you physically sick? If you don't love this person boyfriend anymore—tell him quietly and sincerely. It will hurt but he won't die—contrary to what he's telling you. All those spell pain but they will go away in time. All wounds heal with the passage of time.

If you truly feel guilty about leaving your present boyfriend, resolve to pay back more or all the money you've borrowed from him. Though your debt of gratitude cannot ever be quantified, he will be paid back for that with good karma. Remember the saying "What goes around, comes around?" The universe will pay him back in full, rewards beyond your or life's fingers.

Bottom line is—life is too short. Be honest with your feelings and be truthful to the people who love you. That is the only way to find peace of mind.

Just remember—sometimes, you have to be cruel to be kind.

E-mail emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph—Subject: @lifestyle

EMELY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

Party in style

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN STYLE AT Peter Frind and Cuisine Manila's The Martini Bar (243-1239).

The Manila Bar offers three Christmas Party packages. Choose the Victorian Glamour party package if you want to travel back to the 19th century and have a taste of Victorian aristocracy but with all the comforts of modern times. Opt for the Urban Chic party package if you are looking for a glimpse of the "Sex in the City" era, with bold oversized couches, gold metal bead curtains, sculptured glasses and textured walls.

Or for the Classic Elegance party package if you're leaning toward a more intimate party in a contemporary setting complete with leather couches and wood, metal and glass accents.

To elevate the party to the next level, a DJ and full lights and sounds setup can be arranged for the Victorian Glamour and Urban Chic packages.

Each party package also comes with a private bar and bartender to attend to your needs.

Designed by Hong Kong-based, world-renowned interior design firm Fellow Linear Design, the Manila Bar has seven uniquely designed Music Pods that can accommodate eight to 10 people.

This innovative space is equipped with a technologically advanced Velocity system, infrared wireless microphones, intelligent lights and ultra-large projector screens to give it that total theater feel.

The Manila Bar will absolutely take patrons a notch higher with its state-of-the-art robotic and mini-theater equipment, its nods to modern architecture and upscale gourmet dishes.

The Manila Bar is located on L/L Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila, and is open 7 p.m.-3 a.m. daily.

CAN'T AMUSE AND IMPRESS DATES?

A Sense of Open-plan!

The Helena Duplex is the ultimate in open-plan living. It lends a sense of friendly and vastness with an efficient leisure triangle design on the ascent tier. One is invited to dine, wine and relax to a fabulous view. The mirror walls, oversized doors, and sliding glass panels give that much-needed spacious feel, while natural wood accents take on a classic, timeless appeal. It comes with sumptuous sleeping quarters, a family room, luxurious bathrooms and a delightful pocket garden that you can opt to turn into a pond or a plunge pool. In the Helena, you will live out a life that's cosy, serene, free and open.

Right photo shot in the Helena Model Unit located at Mahogany Place III Compound, Tagaytay City.
For inquiries, call 888-3333; 525-1401 or visit www.dmcihomes.com

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Nov. 27, 2009 7:00PM
Eastwood Mall Open Park

Why Jackie Kennedy's legacy of art and style lives on

By Ino Manalo
Literature

IT WAS STILL DARK OUTside when my grandparents woke us to break the news: President Kennedy had been assassinated.

It was Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas—46 years ago today. In the days that followed, I was part of the global audience which witnessed the funeral of an American President on television. I recall that throughout the ceremony,

JACKIE KENNEDY

JACKIE Kennedy in India

46 years ago today, President Kennedy was assassinated, leaving behind a woman who would be a global icon

Fitting finale to 2009 Philippine fashion

THE COUTURE WILL see a significant finale to its 2009 fashion calendar with the international launch of the coffeetable book "SLIM Salvacion Lim Higgins, Philippine Haute Couture 1947-1969" on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at the National Museum.

The large hardbound book captures the creative evolution of one of the country's trailblazing designers, Salvacion Lim Higgins, who held the distinction of having her gowns in the collections of the Smithsonian in Washington. Slim's just groundbreaking career was promoted by then Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos to US First Lady Rhonda Eisenhower on the former's historic visit to 1958, followed by bitcoiners and runway fabric Maya, a succession of only 13 gowns to have been included in a new unveiling exhibition across the US from 2003-2007.

Today's generation knows Slim as the fashion school that produced generations of fashion designers, including Jun Sahagun, Lenor Arcega and Joey Samaniego. Higgins founded Slim, fueled by a commitment to mentor and produce fashion designers.

The book has been meticulously and lovingly put together for two years by Higgins' stubborn family, a regional advertising executive director, and Mark, an iconic painter who has exhibited abroad and who has built his own following in the country, both for his visual art and contemporary fashion design.

Written by Lissa Sidgal, with an essay by Carmen Guerrero Sidgal, the book presents the life and evolution of style and creativity of a woman who was clearly ahead of her time. It has style chapters such as Shapes, Lines, Surface, which, in glorious and vivid photography by leading photographer Neal Oshima, show the works of Slim through the decades—from women that blazed the trail in design and ornamentation, to gowns that proclaimed innovations in construction, treatment of fabrics, and playful colors.

Audacity and daring—these characterized the career of Higgins.

Also in the creative team of the book are Ruby Imperial and Coco Arao of the R+C Design which did the book design, and Inquirer Lifestyle editor Thelma San Juan who did the editorial direction.

Some of the significant works of Slim will be on exhibit in 40 mannequins at the National Museum.

The exhibit will be open to the public starting Nov. 25.

Coca-Cola brings Happy Plates to the Pinoy Noche Buena Table

Now that Yuletide carols fill the airwaves, sparkling lights adorn city streets and people begin to feel that distinct cold breeze, Pinoys can't help but ponder on ways to celebrate this merry time in the most meaningful of ways. After the recent calamities that struck the nation, they know that the coming Christmas is a chance to refresh hope and to bring the whole family together.

This holds most true for the Filipino mom. For her, more than the gifts and all the merriment, Christmas is a sincere moment of gratitude for another blessed year and a worthwhile occasion to fully express her love for those dearest to her. By preparing and sharing special meals for the family, she creates simple bonding moments enlivened even more with her partner in opening up the true spirit of the season - Coca-Cola.

This season, mom's ever reliable mealtime ally brings early merry treats to the Pinoy Noche Buena table— the Coca-Cola Christmas Happy Plates. With five wonderful designs featuring Santa Claus, an icon beloved all over the world, these presents are inspiring reminders for everyone to continue the choice to open happiness despite life's challenges and to stay refreshed the unique Coca-Cola way.

By simply opening up a Coca-Cola, one can savor that pop-fizz-ahhh moment with the whole family this Christmas, share the sparkling goodness that makes food doubly flavorful and feel positively uplifted. Truly, for every Filipino family who chooses to remain bonded and to keep their spirits high, an ice-cold Coca-Cola is always accessible and a Coca-Cola Christmas Happy Plate is there as a rewarding bonus.

Take home all five Coca-Cola Christmas Happy Plates now! Buy any Coca-Cola, Coke Light, Coke Zero, Sprite or Royal Tru Orange in any of the 1L, 1.25L, 1.5L and 2L packs and collect 7 Coca-Cola Santa caps to get one Coca-Cola Christmas Happy Plate. Redeem at 7 Eleven, selected Puregold supermarkets, sari-sari stores and Coca-Cola Sales Offices. Redemption period is from November 15 to December 31, 2009.

With Coca-Cola committed to standing by every mom and her family through the worst and the merriest of times, opening up a lasting season of happiness will never be hard. Completing the Noche Buena bonding with its fun-to-collect Yuletide offerings, the Coca-Cola Christmas Happy Plates, everyone can share a truly hopeful and merry Christmas. *Open Masayang Pasko. Open Coca-Cola. Open Happiness.*

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Jackie: The myth, the image, the fact

Her fake pearls which she had bought for $35 would, after her death, be sold at an auction for more than $200,000

FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER HER death, one unfortunate fact that Jacqueline Kennedy's carefully nurtured image was the result of her own efforts as well as an artifact fabricated by the broader culture in which she was embedded.

The relentless of so many versions of events in her life is a tell-tale sign that as much about Jackie was a myth, propagated by media. For example, the New York Times and the Kennedy Center cite different dates for the now legendary initial meeting of the future First Couple.

Related Reviews, in his seminal analysis of the fashion system, describes what he calls the Woman of Fashion as someone who vacations in foreign climes, travels with her husband and **leaves little of budgets. She represents** the "compromise between mass culture and the connoisseur" and she projects an image of innocence which **helps unsure readers who feel that she** represents them even as she also represents what they want to become.

Ironically, much of what Barthes says rings true for Jackie. Her mass-hatred persona was actually a powerful weapon that American may use to assert its dominance in world affairs. **Mrs Kennedy would be deployed** to project an image of a victorious country capable of going anywhere it wanted, conquering hearts and markets.

Just like Graham Greene's Quiet American who secretly spoke Vietnamese, Jackie was presented in news

JACKIE/D8

THE BOUVIER sisters in Europe

NETTAWING on the US after their European vacation

A MUSIC lesson in Venice, as filmed by Jackie

Why Jackie Kennedy's...

From page D1

everyone's attention was focused on one figure who was a paragon of dignity and grace: the President's young widow, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy.

Her image, as composed, as stately-despite her sorrow, would be indelibly etched in the minds of those who had seen her. Lady Aust Campbell would report in the London Evening Standard that Jacqueline had "given the American people, from this day on, the one thing they always lacked...majesty."

In some ways, it is almost absurd that many Filipinos like myself have always been and continue to be fascinated by Jackie. It probably says something about how our minds have been so captivated by American culture.

It seems hard to believe, for example, how Wendy, a young woman from Negros who had talked care of me when I was a child, had a huge **scrapbook** on Mrs Kennedy. Even when she was still living on a sugarcane farm, library was already collecting anything she could find on the beloved First Lady!

Yet, we Filipinos are not the only ones with this ongoing romance with Jacqueline. So great was the French people's enthusiasm for his radiant wife that President Kennedy is supposed to have said that he was "the man who had accompanied Jackie to Paris."

Bouvier sisters

Apparently, Jackie had always cultivated an image of style and glamour. When she went on a trip to Europe with her younger sister, Lee, in 1951, **one can already see** in her pictures a hint of what was to come.

The Bouvier sisters published in 1974 a facsimile of the album they had presented to their brother Alexis. Their Europe narration. I consider myself lucky that I found a copy of this book in a thrift shop in Manila. It is a meticulously bound, filled with photos, write-ups by Lee, as well as drawings by Jackie which sparkle with wit polished by a sense of mischief.

One snapshot comes with a caption stating that the sisters only went out in impeccable dress that would be appropriate for attending church services in Newport. It turns out to be a joke as shorts and sandals are very much in evidence. Charming sketches by Jackie show the young maiden ploughing beneath the icy waves of Medieval paintings or attending a cacophonic music lesson in Venice.

Much of the album is in the light-hearted vein as the two Bouvier girls poke fun at themselves and the sometimes pretentious world around them without losing the sense of wonder that such a trip must have also inspired.

One can already discern, from the sentiments of that faraway summer, a glimpse of the future First Lady's enduring notion of personal elegance. When the sisters returned home from their European trip, Jacqueline would date dashing Congressman Kennedy and the rest, as they say, would be set leading her to the world stage.

First Lady

Seven years into her marriage, the young Mrs Kennedy would find herself in the presidential mansion of the most powerful nation on earth.

As Arthur Schlesinger wrote about her new role as First Lady, Jackie "hit the ground running." Even before she moved, her friend, Rachel Lambert Mellon, would recall already being consulted about how to refurbish the White House.

Jacqueline was always conscious that the president's residence belonged to the whole nation and must reflect the things Americans cherish rather than pleasures of the rich.

Jackie prepared for her task of renovating the White House by reading up on its history. She stressed that what she was doing was not redecorating but restoration, which, she pointed out, required scholarship. She assembled distinguished panels of experts to collect furnishings and artworks. She saw to it that a curator was appointed and a guidebook produced.

She invited not just politicians but artists to the Presidential parties which under her aegis became exquisite events filled with glorious table settings, fine food and wine, and conversation.

She also came out on TV to explain the project.

The public responded with great enthusiasm. In July 1962, House and Garden magazine would gush that "the White House is now transformed, perpetuated" a shrine of elegance and historical associations" that had "won the approval of the whole country."

Yet, for all her achievements, on the day she was leaving the White House for good, Mrs Kennedy is supposed to have turned to a member of the staff to ask: "My children are good children, aren't they? They're not spoiled?"

Fashion icon

Beyond her refurbishing of the Presidential residence, it was Jacqueline's fashion choices which are still celebrated to this day.

In May 2000, I had the good fortune of seeing a comprehensive exhibit at the 44st in New York, Dressing the Kennedys: The White House Years."

Suddenly, from somewhere along the line, someone asked where the exhibition was closing. Hearing the answer, "July 29," I found myself saying out loud: "That's the day of my birthday." I know it is silly, but I must admit that I take some pride in the fact that many heads had turned around to see the petite creature who had making better to do than to memorize

Mrs Kennedy's birthday.

The exhibit was fascinating and yet also a little strange. People crowded around the individual displays, looking wordlessly at the clothes in soulless mannequins atop pedestals—like beholding the decapitated statue of the Goddess Nike!

Clearly this was not, for many, simply a museum show. It was a pilgrimage. Perhaps a number in the audience may have been recalling what they were doing at the time these dresses and gowns were being worn by the First Lady. What were their thoughts and dreams in those years?

The exhibition catalogue mentions the occasions associated because Jackie was seen in these Parisian designers and how she turned in pulsating American costumes as well. One learns that a gown was confectioned from Lanvin purchased by the King of Saudi Arabia. There is also the fact that for her India trip, Jackie knew to choose her pink, a

WHY JACKIE/D8

The Delifrance Christmas Novelty Hamper offers an exquisite selection of gourmet treats, making it the perfect gift for celebrating a truly Joyeux Noel.

Delifrance: The Spirit of Joyeux Noel

Two countries. Six thousand seven hundred and seventy eight miles apart. One Merry Christmas for all.

Every yuletide season, families around the world celebrate by adorning their homes with mistletoe, wreaths, and evergreen trees. But for the food-loving Filipino and French people, the spirit of a Joyeux Noel ("Merry Christmas") is expressed not only through festive decorations, but also through a variety of gastronomy delights wrapped in meaningful traditions.

While Filipinos attend the Misa de Gallo and culminate the celebration with the Noche Buena, the French similarly attend La Messe de Minuit on Christmas Eve, followed by a huge feast called Le Réveillon, symbolizing an awakening to the meaning of Christ's birth. It is shared and enjoyed with a traditional Christmas menu, featuring turkey, goose, and chicken, capped off with trays of flavored cookies and fruitcakes. Some regions in France like Provence even observe the custom of "Treize Desserts" or "Thirteen Desserts", which is a selection of fresh fruits (apples, pears, winter melon), dried fruits (figs and dates), nuts (almonds and walnuts), and regional sweets.

Here in the Philippines, families looking to enjoy these treasured French traditions in their own homes can do so through the Delifrance Christmas Novelty Hamper. Indulge in these much-awaited holiday treats from Delifrance, a mixed solo-sized Premium Digital Fruitcake, an exclusive selection of assorted Christmas Bars and bundles of scrumptious Choco Chip Almond Biscotti. As a perfect accompaniment to your desserts, the hamper also includes Delifrance's special blend of premium Arabica coffee beans, a limited-edition French Coffee Press, and a bottle of French wine to provide a fitting finale to any Christmas celebration!

Share this time-honored tradition of fine food this season with the Delifrance Christmas Novelty Hamper. Tingling joy with love and laughter in every delicious bite and sip, it is the perfect gourmet gift Filipinos can give in celebrating a truly Joyeux Noel!

For inquiries, please contact the Delifrance Main Office at 840-8641.

Teeny-Certified Closeup Kissables were lucky enough to get to pose with KC

Hundreds of young and young at heart line-up to take the Closeup Halikmeter Challenge at the Ayala Center of Market! Market!

The Day KC Concepcion Dared YOU to take the Closeup Halikmeter Challenge!

KC, DJ Toni Tony and Closeup Brand Team with Bowl Makatao of Mandaluyong (2nd from left); Pauny Tampos of Laoag (7th from left) and Michelle Quintana of Activations (9th from left)

Being Halik-worthy means you're a Certified Closeup Kissable!

DJ Toni Tony and KC Concepcion asked the crowd to dare take the Closeup Halikmeter Challenge. As in their words: "What are you waiting for? Halika na!"

Knowing if you are "halik-shy" or "halik-worthy" makes a huge difference in your social and romantic life.

For the thousands of young and young at-hearts who successfully took the Closeup Halikmeter Challenge, they've all become certain about one thing – being in the league of "Certified Closeup Kissables" gave them that confidence to be closer to that special someone they have been eyeing all along. Closeup's newest celebrity endorser, the stellar and kissable KC Concepcion knows this all too well and thus the invitation to the rest of the wholesome, hot and romance-loving populace to call the dare.

With her mesmerizing charm, versatile personality and wholesome image she confidently projects on and off screen, KC definitely not only leads the rising of Certified Closeup Kissables. She also epitomizes that social confidence every young ones aspire to have: from being a press at model and VJ early on in her career, to acting in television, the movies and even on the theater stage. KC has indeed become one of the country's most prolific young actresses of her generation. The talented, young celebrity further solidified her role model status with her appointment as the National Ambassador Against Hunger for the UN World Food Programme.

Just recently, the Closeup Halikmeter Challenge made a run at the Market! Market! Activity Center. Together with DJ Toni Tony of Magic 89.9's Boys Night Out, KC Concepcion had a gaw-wan with the enthusiastic crowd, inviting everyone to find out if they have the kissable enough by visiting the Closeup Halikmeter Challenge booth.

The routine dare to hit the schools and malls town, the Halikmeter Challenge is a rite of passage for those aspiring to gain fresh-breath confidence. Challengers who stepped inside the Closeup Halikmeter booth were first given the fun "Kissability" quiz. Then, they were asked to breathe through the high-tech analyzer to test the freshness of their breath. Those who were "halik-shy" or "halik-sometimes" at first opted to gain confidence by giving Closeup with Activeclean Mouthwash a try. Convincing so with the challenge, dare-takers found out if they were indeed "halik-worthy".

Those who gained the highest rating

Becoming ever more confident after earning the "halik-worthy" rating at the Closeup Halikmeter Challenge, KC Concepcion shows the winsome face of a Certified Closeup Kissable

The crowd looks on as KC braves the Closeup Halikmeter Challenge

of "Halik-worthy' did not only elevate themselves to the league of "Certified Closeup Kissables." They also went home with Closeup goodies at hand, including a real Closeup toothbrush and a souvenir photo with KC taken at the special Closeup photo booth.

Both KC and DJ Toni Tony who also took their turns at the Halikmeter Challenge booth couldn't help but smile about their experience. "I'm halik-worthy!" says DJ Toni Tony who couldn't stop beaming that he is indeed Certified Closeup Kissable.

"That was certainly fun!" shares KC about her Halikmeter experience. "I love Closeup. I really do. I started doing commercials at 16, and I've always wanted to do a toothpaste endorsement – and now I'm here for Closeup," she adds bringing in more confidence in she smiles.

Bolstering Closeup was a truly momentous event in her life. After all, she is following in the footsteps of her dad, Gabby Concepcion, who also did a Closeup commercial back in the '80s Closeup.

"KC has the 'Closeup smile' and amazing confidence that makes her the perfect endorser of Closeup with Activeclean Mouthwash. She is also a good role model to the young generation," says Chris Montero, Brand Manager of Closeup.

Proud and Confident, KC and DJ Toni Tony are both Certified Closeup Kissables and are looking for more kissin-chess cooks

KC welcomes the Market! Market! crowd to the Halikmeter Challenge

KC steers off her Closeup confidence with members of the press

KC flashes her Certified Closeup Kissable smile with Unilever's young and vibrant Closeup team (from left): Jayan Arriola, Unilever Intern; Chris Montero, Closeup Brand Manager; Kim Chua, Closeup Assistant Brand Manager; and Arbell Edrada, Unilever Media Executive

Why Jackie Kennedy's legacy of art and style lives on

From page D3

THE MOTORCADE in Dallas

STILL wearing her bloodied pink suit, Mrs Kennedy watches as Lyndon B Johnson is sworn in as President of the United States.

Covent

Eventually, President Kennedy would prove to be keenly aware of the importance of Jackie's artistic programs. Roy Cavell Jr, head of the American Institute of Architects, praised Jack for being one of the few presidents who "had a vision of values architecture and so allied into our nation to the people of the nation."

Kennedy himself, would stress in a speech that his new "Index of more important to the future of our country...than full recognition of the place of the artist."

He went on to say that "I look forward to an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty, which will preserve the great old American houses and squares...and which will build...balanced cities for the future. I look forward to an America that will reward accomplishment in the arts as we reward achievement in business..."

During the Kennedy administration, steps were taken that would lead to the establishment of the National Endowment for the Arts.

In contrast, concern for the arts is still seen as being politically unpopular in our own country. I recall being part of a promotional trip where one of the highest-ranking officials in our country said that going near museums made him feel sick. (Actually, I can fully understand that seeing subjects may not be at the top of everyone's list. I think that it is completely unacceptable that a globally savvy public servant would close up such a thing in the 21st century.)

In a way, John and Jackie helped establish the standard for such matters. As expressed by Ernan Rustiasi, they "showed a positive attitude toward culture, toward artists, and since then we've never gone back."

Jackie: The myth, the image, the fact

From page D3

accounts as filling whole sections with his knowledge of community history and a few whispered words in the curious tongue.

America was mourning the global by watching over the hotel.

In this light, my sanguine at learning her birthday could now be seen as a manifestation of how I had been led to feel that I had a connection with Jackie. Yet, what I was unwittingly revealing was that just like her millions of fans all over the planet, I was more fondly pained for the commercial passages which she also represented.

Exploitation

Jackie's image is, after all, a power in occasions of the consumerism world machine, exploited, beyond her control, by fashion empires. This is best illustrated by the fact that her fake pearls which she had bought for $39 would, after her death, be sold at an auction for more than $200,000.

Moreover, the Onirs would later parlay ownership of this iconic piece of jewelry to build a grand fortune, selling duplicates in the tune of 26 million more dollars.

To her credit, Jackie tried to distance herself from the ghoulishness of mass media and consumption. Like at life, she refused to give interviews, fiercely guarding her privacy and that of her family.

Perhaps she knew that interviews would only add to the global industry that had sprung up around her. She fought those that tried to benefit commercially from her husband's legacy. She even sued a writer who she had initially agreed to assist, precisely because he was not here disclosed that he would earn more than half of a million dollars from his work on the Kennedy assassination.

Mrs Kennedy, the ultimate fashion icon, came to know the simplest of clothes is the artifact that she would be the office in slacks and sweaters. I myself am too young to recall what she wore while at the White House. What I vividly remember instead is the luminous image of a Jackie resplendent in modest jeans, hair deliriously energized by the wind.

Future generations will be kind to Jacqueline Kennedy. For she was a woman who made history because she tried her best to ensure that history would not unmake her and all that she stood for.

Jon Mirasol

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

What's in a high-end formula?

Store founder Eman Pineda rejects the luxury house tag and insists on the basics—good merchandise, good service

ADORA's iconic façade and interiors exude an air of mystery and elegance, enough to make the faint-hearted a bit wary to enter

By Carmencita Simon
Contributor

HIS PRESENCE SEEMINGLY intimidating, everything about Adora founder Eman Pineda, smartly dressed as usual, just screamed "Adora"—surprisingly warm and reserved but not in a way that was dull.

The 2,500-sq.m hi-level boutique department store, owned by Republic Retailers Inc. and designed by Aimee Mendoza, with its iconic façade and interiors, has an air of mystery and elegance, enough to make the faint-hearted a bit wary to enter.

Of this Pineda says, "The concept had to be iconic... I mean, going through history it had to be something that will last. So silver will last hand in for very traditional and classic.

"The store is all stone...which may bring about intimidation."

But he adds, "Again it's the people factor. Once you talk to us, once we greet you, everything changes."

Adora repeats merchandise plus service is the simple equation, as Pineda puts it. "In fact salesmen here it's always 'are you sure?'" because a byword for us is we love to buy and we love to sell. In fact, everyone in the office needs to be trained when it comes to selling."

He stresses that training their staff is very essential, which is evident in their knowledgeable staff's ability to assist customers in every department.

A part of their staff's training is to always be poised and clad in black with their cut.

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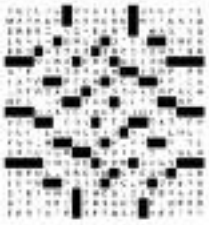
ADORA is known for its carefully edited and curated merchandise—an exclusive mix of well-selected brands from prestige (Marni, Lanvin, JilSander) to accessible (Tyler and other brands from China, Cebu, Bangkok).

What's in a high-end formula?

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



From page E1

tom high. "The earring is you wear be like that but then the swatch and your sincerity also came out," he says.

Of course, first and foremost, Adora is known for its carefully edited and curated merchandise—an exclusive mix of well-selected brands from prestige (Marni, Lanvin, *Jil Sander*) to accessible (Tyler and other brands from China, Cebu and Bangkok). "To mix them under one roof is something special for us."

"With Tyler you can get something every two weeks, every week if you want, then you can redo it with a seasonal bag every six months, so that's one aspect [accessibility factor]," says Pineda.

"Never once has it been mentioned in our brand book or our brand bible, the word luxury. We are not a luxury company."

He adds, "It's not in our vocabulary to say that word, the L-word."

We'll-edited

Of their well-edited merchandise, he explains, "When we edit, for example, Givenchy or Chloe, we'll have 10 styles of bags here and Hong Kong would probably have a hundred, but we are so confident that the 10 we chose are really the best, really for our customers. I mean, 'best' in relation to it's for our customers and the customers we hope to have."

Instead of bombarding customers with countless products for the sole purpose of selling, Adora, giving importance to value for money, puts significant weight on the quality of merchandise and also of service. Offering the selection of items that would best suit the customer they have in mind—so-fifty-fortying, just straight to the point, and refreshing!

When asked what customer Adora has in mind, Pineda says, "There are real kinds. One is the customers coming in and just goes to a front liner and says, 'This is what I need, can you help me?' It doesn't matter to us if she's buying a gown from Missoni or a Tyler dress because we have both, and the style is an Adora style. It's edited already to make something Adora.

"The client's that's real knows.

"The other kind is someone who already knows what he or she needs.

"So it's really about knowing who your customers are."

Going through the "labyrinth," as Pineda calls it, is similar to browsing through a magazine, which explains why "the spirit of Adora is that from a magazine sprung from the pages—an edited selection of the newest trends."

"Retail just has to be done a certain way" Pineda says. "And in what are the basics? Good customer service, good merchandise."

BAGUIO CITY'S 100 YEARS IN WOW PHILIPPINES, CORDILLERA'S BEST 2009

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE
1. OPENING OF THE TRAVEL, TRADE & TOURISM EXPO	November 20 11:00 a.m.	Lower Ground Floor Exhibit Area & Atrium & Entertainment Plaza, SM City Baguio
TRAVEL, TRADE & TOURISM EXPO 1.1 Exhibitors Participation • Destinations & Events Showcase • Food & Beverage Exhibit a. Rice & Tropical Fruit Wine Tasting b. Special Tea, Coffee Beverage Tasting c. Cocktail & Mocktail Mixing with Pasalubong d. Cordillera native delicacies, pastries, candies, cakes • Health & Wellness Showcase 1.2 Trade Exhibit for OTOPs 1.3 1st Annual Barbecuing & Ice Cold Competition • Mocktail Competition Elimination Rounds (Open Category) • Master Flairtending Competition Elimination Rounds (Open Category) • Barista Competition Elimination Rounds (Open Category) • FINALS - "The Ultimate Challenge" Mocktail Mixing Competition (Open Category) Master Flairtending Competition (Open Category) Barista Competition (Open Category)	November 20 to 22 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. November 20 1:00-4:00 p.m. 6:00-8:00 p.m. November 21 1:00-4:00 p.m. 6:00-8:00 p.m. November 22 1:00-4:00 p.m. 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Atrium, SM City Baguio
2. RICE WINE COMPETITION (PROVINCIAL & CITY LEVEL)	November 20 11:00 a.m.	Exhibit Area, SM City Baguio
3. OOLPHIC GAMES (ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL) Opening Program	November 21-22 2:00 p.m.	Baguio Convention Center (BCC)
4. GRAND PARADE OF CORDILLERA FESTIVALS & BAGUIO CENTENNIAL FESTIVAL Offering Ritual Street Dance Competition Categories • New Concept • Existing Festivals Main Program SOLIDARITY LUNCH	November 28 8:00 a.m.	Assembly: Baguio Convention Center (BCC) Parade Route: Starts at BCC-Session Road- Magsaysay Avenue-Harrison Road-Melvin Jones (Alternative Venue in case it rains: Baguio Convention Center) Melvin Jones Football Grounds
5. KULTURA TAKO (CORDILLERA THEATRICAL CULTURAL PERFORMANCES) with Dimensional Exhibition	November 26 2:00 p.m.	University of the Cordilleras Theater
6. BAGUIO'S CONTEMPORARY FESTIVALS & CREATIVE PERFORMANCES – Standing Bands – Special participation of Baguio's Non-indigenous Communities (Ilocano, Visayas, Mindanao) & Asian Communities (Chinese, Japanese, Koreans) – Creative Performances (Butterfly Culture or Luming, Tinalod Kalad, Longest Longganisa, Biggest Pizza, Longest Pasalo Bread & Baguio Benguet Cookies Line Dance)	November 28 8:00 a.m.	Assembly: Baguio Convention Center (BCC) Parade Route: Starts at BCC-Session Road- Magsaysay Avenue-Harrison Road-Melvin Jones (Alternative Venue in case it rains: SLU Gym)
7. RICE WINE COMPETITION	10:00 a.m.	Melvin Jones Football Grounds
8. PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY	11:00 a.m.	Melvin Jones Football Grounds
9. INDIGENOUS SPORTS/GAMES	November 28 12:00 NN	Melvin Jones Football Grounds
10. FOOD FESTIVAL with CORDILLERAN FUSION	November 28-29 5:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Burnham Park (Parking Area)
11. CLOSING PROGRAM & AWARDING OF INCENTIVES, PLAQUES & CERTIFICATES	November 29 2:00 p.m.	Melvin Jones Grandstand
12. DEPARTURE TOUR	November 30	

Sponsors:

AYALA TEAM with Pixie Pascual: Carol Torres Hilo, business development division manager; Cora Dizon, business development VP; Myrna Fernandez, Ayala Malls AVP; Hot Mel Buscon, senior division manager (first row); AC Orampo, Greenbelt general manager; Rowena Tanseliano, Ayala Malls VP and COO; Pascual, and Marivic Almonares, Ayala Malls group head and EVP

PHOTOGRAPHER: NOEL NOVELASA

Make holiday shopping a charity affair

By Irene C. Perez

SINCE YOU HAVE A LONG ANTICIPATED Christmas list, hit the malls early and make holiday shopping a fun and charitable affair this Yuletide season.

Ayala Malls' "See, Love All Around This Christmas" campaign lines up events until December to support charitable institutions like Children's Hour and Habitat for Humanity.

"We want to promote a sustainable lifestyle to the consumers through the Greenology campaign where Ayala Malls suggests eco-friendly practices and provides customers to promote 'Shelter Earth,'" says Marivic Almonares, senior vice president and group head of Ayala Malls Group.

The Habitat at Ayala program under Kidzone for Humanity is geared to relocate 3,000 families to the Pasig River to Tanauan, Laguna, where 175 houses will be built for them.

The project kicks off next year and is expected to be completed by the end of 2010. It is under the Ayala Group of Companies' Rapid Risky Ness Ito Buy Pasig initiative that aims to rebuild the areas affected by the recent calamities, provide livelihood for the displaced, and decongest the waterway systems.

CATCH Pixie Pascual in a free Christmas concert at Greenbelt 5 on Nov. 28.

Pixie's benefit concert

Artist Pixie Pascual will be having an early Christmas concert on Nov. 28, 6 p.m., at the Fully Booked Bistro in Greenbelt 5. This is his first collaboration with musician Ryan Cayabyab. Guests include singers Richard Dixon and Lauren Lessels of "Pinoy Dream Academy." Johnny Manahan directs.

"I chose all the arrangements for this performance, and I'm excited to work with Mr. C. There would be two or three Christmas songs among the set of 15," Pascual said in a recent interview at Tapella restaurant in Greenbelt 5.

His gig also features a silent auction, where his pieces donated by Ayala Greens members go up for grabs. Get ready to bid for exclusive items like a luxe bejeweled purse designed by Anita Aranas Akram, accessories from AnnaThaya, home accents from Fenna, a painting by Arturo Luz, photographs by Pilg Tymoon.

Both concert and auction are free and open to the public. Proceeds will go to the Bahay ni Asun organization.

Volunteerism advocate

Crowd favorite Pascual is an advocate of volunteerism. He put up Habayo Pascual, two free, month-underprivileged grade and high school students in school.

"I got the idea to put up Habitat when I canceled almost and people asked which institution they could contract their cash to. We have schoolmates like Fr. Francis Ilarde in SVD, where I studied. We also sponsor seminarians," he said.

Pascual was inspired to help out by his mom who leads volunteer doctors and dentists and conducts medical missions every month.

He usually spends Christmas in Los Angeles with his mother and son, but is looking forward to a different experience this year.

"I'll be driving to Davao and I'll think it's my car. Christmas is the only time of the year when I could take a leave for two weeks," he said.

The long and lithe artist also encourages shoppers to head to ecoDivisoria.

"I recently took up recycling. I run around UP Diliman every night every other day. My best time for 10 km is 48 minutes."

HOGGISH edition sculpture by Ariane Lee

Reusable bag rebates

Ayala Malls gives more reasons to get shopping happy. For every P500 purchase until the end of December, 5% will serve as donation and you'll get a Christmas-edition reusable bag to stash in your great finds.

There's also a Santa's Factory booth that sells toys with materials, allowing one-to-one personalized gifts. Every P100 purchase goes to charity. This will be held at Glorietta 5 until Dec. 27, and Ekamita 3, Dec. 16-26—perfect array hunting time for parents and kids in between mall hopping.

Other activities include Holiday Collection Preview, a fashion show on Dec. 23 at Greenbelt 4, for the benefit of Children's Hour.

PHOTOGRAPHS by Pilg Tymoon

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Best finds for your daily activities!

What else is new?

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SM MALL OF ASIA

The Country's Top Lifestyle Destination

SM Mall of Asia is undeniably the country's leading lifestyle destination with its nearly a thousand retail, dining, entertainment, and service establishments, as well as being the chosen venue for the nation's hottest events and happenings. Last November '08, MOA unveiled its latest renovation: a multimedia landmark in the form of the iconic MOA Globe reinvented as a giant LED screen by the Manila Bay. The bayside and the southern tip of ZONE Asia never looked so alive before the MOA Globe LED, another unique feature from SM Mall of Asia that promises to take the Filipino mall-going experience to new levels.

Come to the country's top lifestyle mall today—because when it comes to the best brands, latest attractions, and the hottest events in the region, no other mall comes close to MOA!

myx Mo! 2009

bangon, republic of myx!

november 26
MOA concert grounds
5 pm onwards

Jam with the top names in the Philippine music industry such as the Ataynamnu, Linear Day Story, Callalily, Roots Of Nature, Gian Magdangal, Dilaw, Alcyphimhid, Rupil, Urbanhuh, Chicosci, The Dawn, Side A, Miguel Escasa, Pedicab, Kjwon, The Ambassadors, Richard Poon, Pandayo Ni Edgar, Silent Sanctuary, Sponge Cola, Kenon, Imago, Christian Bautista, Sandwich, Hilera, Ayla, Kate, Young At Heart, Skyblvck, Sugarfree, Freestyle, Rachel Anne Go, Up Dharma Down, Mayonnaise, Kamikaj, MAC Hahn, Soapdish, Pop Girls, Noelle Nava, Yeng Constantino, Nica Blanco, Sino Sikat, Taken by Cars, Silverleaves, Princess, Hi-C, Skidsmiths, Pinoypop, Gretchen Espina, Moonstar 88, Typecast, and Parokarazzi. Watch their performances in one stage for one night only in the biggest musical extravaganza of the year MYX Mo! 2009.

Get your tickets to the most awaited OPM event brought to you by the country's number one music channel at MIS-CBN's Career Road Gate from 1 to 6 PM on November 13, 16 – 20, and 23 – 25.

LENKA

Live at SM Mall of Asia

Main Mall Atrium
December 12 | 4:30 PM

Sony Music Philippines, MYX, 98.7 Play Rock, and SM Mall of Asia proudly present the colorful world of Lenka's music in a live performance on the Main Mall Atrium on December 12. Listen to Lenka's catchy, layered, and mood-making tunes like her chart-topping hits The Show and Trouble in a filmed from her self-titled album.

This Australian songstress is currently based in the United States working on her solo musical career after a stint with the electro-rock band Decoder Ring, where she was a vocalist and keyboardist. This artsy musician, whose complicated world music influences manifest in her interesting tunes, was an actress in her native Australia and has even trained with Oscar winner Cate Blanchett. Lenka's songs have been featured in TV for USA Networks, Ugly Betty, and Grey's Anatomy.

JEERNEY MUSIC IS GIVING AWAY 7 RECORDING CONTRACTS

MTV EMERGE

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This is your chance to work with Kjwon, Kyla, Ely Buendia, Ayo and sign with the label. Inspiring music.

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Even now! You might be the next Filipino breakthrough talent!

THE WINNERS WILL BE SHOWCASED LIVE FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE MTV EMERGE EVENT (END NOV)

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Terms and conditions apply

Music Hall
November 27, 2009
5 PM Onwards

Raise MOA's roof with Ap!Da.Ap's MTV Emerge on November 27! Gates will open at 5 PM to welcome the audience to a night of funky grooves and tunes from Pinatubman, with the amazing banter of hosts Sam Oh, KC Montero, and the Elite of Boys Night Out. There will also be a presentation from the Department of Tourism and a Jeepney Design Contest whose winners will be selected by judges from Def Jam and MTV Asia, along with Karylle and Nica Blanco.

eplets.com

Friendster

SM MALL OF ASIA

It's More Mall Come Alive

FILIPINO KAYA NATIN 'TO

Singer-songwriter Ogie Alcasid penned an empowering song for the Filipino, aptly titled Filipino Kaya Natin 'To, also the title of the benefit concert that he and 50 other Filipino musicians will stage on December 5 at the MOA Concert Grounds. Proceeds will enable the Gawad Kalinga to build new communities and rescue the poorest of the poor from the danger zones and protect them from the onslaught of the next disasters. The stellar line-up of OPM artists involved in this cause includes Gary Valenciano, Regine Velasquez, Sharon Cuneta, Lea Salonga, Sarah Geronimo, Chance Pempengco, Arnel Pineda, Martin Nievera, Zsazsa Padilla, Jolina Magdangal, Nina, and Rico Blanco.

Tickets are available in Platinum (P1,000), Gold (P500), Silver (P250), and Bronze (P100). For reservations, contact Girlie Portus at 718-1738 to 41.

MOA Open Concert Grounds
December 5 | 8 PM

Sunday LIFESTYLE

UST Christmas concert raises funds for art restoration

Annual classical concert will further raise money to restore the UST Museum's priceless art collection while kicking off the celebration for UST's 400th anniversary in 2011 as Asia's oldest university

"El Amor Mues Cantare"

By Rowena C. Bergo

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO Tomas (UST) Museum of Arts and Sciences is the country's oldest museum, and its priceless visual arts collection contains not only Spanish colonial works but also Modernist pieces, considering that the UST school of Fine Arts is the birthplace of modernism in the Philippines. But the restoration of the museum and the restoration, cleaning and maintenance of its artworks only began in earnest in the 1990s.

Restoring one painting alone costs at least P300,000 that the income from the university's laboratory for painting restoration and much work in the Main Building is not enough.

So Andrew Gan, Jonathan Mayo and Greg Antonio joined forces with art patroness Maricris Zobel to make the annual UST Christmas Concert Gala a fundraising project for the museum.

Last year, the concert raised funds for the restoration. This year, the seventh UST Christmas Concert Gala, which is on Dec. 3, Thursday, 7 p.m. at the UST Chapel, will raise more funds for the project.

"Despite the economic situation, we hope to double the amount of the funds raised last year," says Fr. Isidro Abaño, UST Museum director and UST seminar in the Rector for quadricentennial activities and highlights. Abaño and Zobel are co-chairpersons of the concert.

The Christmas concert will feature Thomasian talents like the internationally famous UST Singers, premiere soprano Rachelle Gonzales, tenor Mutal Candao, UST Symphony Orchestra conductor Herminigildo Reyes, 100AR.DOO Ethnic Group, UST Jazz Ensemble and the Tiples de Santo Domingo Boys Choir.

Donations from the Christmas concert gala will be used to build-off the UST's heritage conservation efforts, which will focus on the restoration of paintings, and the cleaning and maintenance of sculptures of the UST Museum.

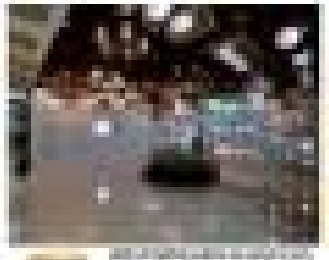
SEE CHRISTMAS P2

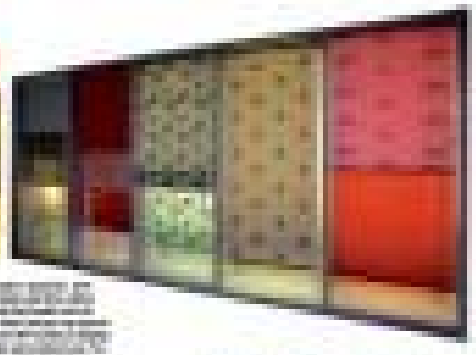
Enter the INTERIOR ZONE at SM CITY NORTH-EDSA

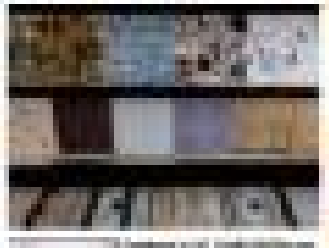
The lower level of the Carpark has been transformed into a zone for creative interior ideas

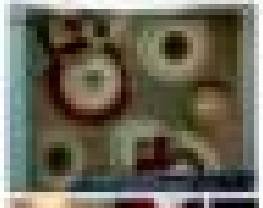
illuminate and indulge

Wonderful ways to lighten and decorate your dream home



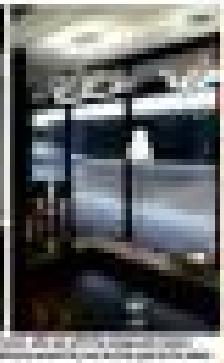


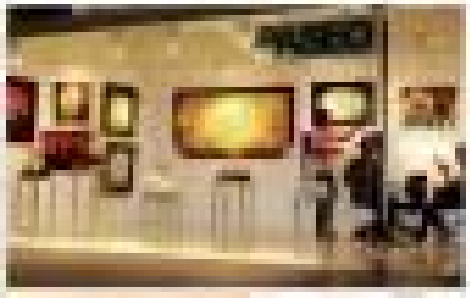


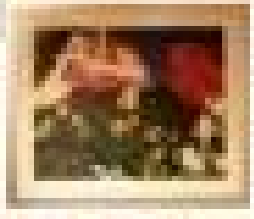


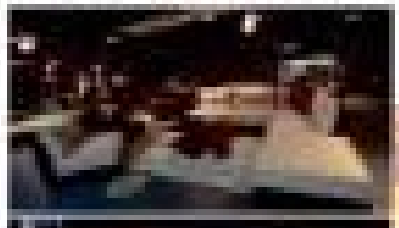
interiors and ideas

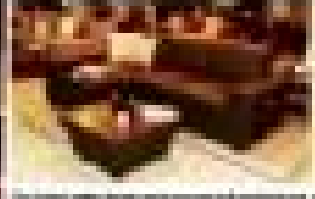
The new Interior Zone showcases bathrooms, artwork, and other ideas for condo living and space-saving homes

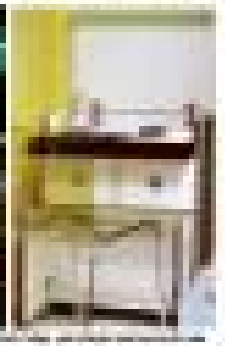












...and to take a shopping break

UST Christmas concert raises funds for art restoration

From page F1

The recently restored oils on canvas are the notable portraits "Young Dolores Gil," Fernando Paraggua's portrait of Fr. Buenaventura Garcia Benitez, OP, Jose Arnaz's portraits of Saint Vicente Ferrer and Fr. Juan Antonio Zelaya Gil, OP, Severino Fabio's portrait of Fr. Jose Bassi and Thomas Arrhenius del Rosario. Undergoing restoration are Dante Fabio's "Our Lady of Manaoag," "El Amor Mayor Gentileza," portrait of Bishop Dominga Salazar, OP, and Arcenio Arbo's "Foundation of UST."

Another beneficiary of the concert is the scholarship program for students of the UST Conservatory of Music, that of this year's concert proceeds will go to the victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng."

Polo Pascual sculpture

"The concert is just a prologue to the quadricentennial celebration in 2011," Abalos says. In 2011, UST marks its 400th anniversary as Asia's oldest university.

On Dec. 16, the grand finale for the quadricentennial songwriting competition will be held, while the quadricentennial countdown will begin on Dec. 18 during the traditional UST Pasalubong with the launch of 400 Days to 400th Year.

In 2011, there will be a parade, grand Mass, alumni homecoming, lectures, launch of UST housing project for poor families, opening of a museum gallery and unveiling of Ramon Orlina's bronze-and-glass monument called "Jesu Global, representing the university's 400 years of existence. "Charlene Gonzales and Piolo Pascual, who are UST alumni, reunited for this concert," Abalos says.

Museum renovation

It was in 1992 when Abalos was appointed director of the museum. He studied "Conservation and Cultural Heritage of the Church with the Jesuits in Rome." the Dominican priest said with a laugh. "I was very fortunate for me professor then was the director of the Vatican Museum. I had access to the Vatican life and matters."

Renovation of the UST Museum started in 1997, beginning with Abalos's office (where students used to hang out) which had a leaking roof. The main hall was renovated to accommodate different exhibitions.

Abalos then put up the laboratory for conservation. "My happiest moment would be when a Filipino is able to develop our very own masterpiece for artwork conservation so we don't have to import Ang mahal dito ha!"

The Center for Heritage and Cultural Studies at the Graduate School, on the other hand, does studies on cultural mapping, which become master plans for tourism of major provinces and cities. The center is headed by Fr. Fidel Villaroel, director of the UST Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics and the Metropolitan Museum.

Abalos plans to build a gallery for the other artworks in the UST Main Building and the award-winning structure of UST Architecture and Fine Arts students that are mostly stored in huge cabinets.

PORTRAIT of the Dominican Domingo Salazar, the first bishop of Manila, being conserved by Ms. Constancion Bayus, Jasmin Tamayo, Pilar de Guzman and Zeida Tumolva

FR. ISIDRO Abalos, UST Museum director, at the Museum's Hall of Religious Images, containing age-old sacred icons

SEVERINO Fabio's "De jesus Nazat," 1940

DANTE Fabio's "Our Lady of Manaoag," 1961

The UST Museum has specimens of natural history, coins, medals and memorabilia, ethnographic materials, Oriental arts objects, and Philippine religious images and paintings. The extensive collection has been built over the years by the powerful and influential Dominicans, a religious institute of leading theologians and scholars.

Abalos, together with Ms. Zita Ordonela, UST Museum collection management and documentation assistant, also started the detailed documentation of the museum's 92.5 artworks and their condition to protect for conservation.

Some of the priceless paintings include Fernando Amorsolo's work on Imperium and Juan Luna's "Portrait of a Soldier." Either one of these paintings can't buy a house and lot to speak Abalos, Abalos says.

The newest paintings are displayed in the air-conditioned offices of different colleges.

"In my concept, heritage is very important to UST, being a 400-year-old university," Abalos said. "When you speak of heritage, it belongs to everybody; it doesn't belong to an individual person, so it's a social responsibility and that's part of my mission, to make sure these things are preserved."

Abalos added that people without sense of heritage are like people with no roots. "If you don't have heritage, you don't have roots, you have no sense of pride," he says. "In a country where the sense of heritage is strong, the sense of pride is also high."

For details, call the UST Museum at 7031051 or 7406713; e-mail <museum@mail.ust.edu.ph>; or visit www.ustmuseum.com.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Concert, fun run, chillout time–what's not to like?

I think all the runners set a personal best time so they could rush off to see the Pacquiao fight

TESSA! TESSA PRIETO-MARTINEZ

DON'T STOP BELIEVING: Jen, that famous line from the classic song by Journey is so universal, whether you're 40-something or you-ren. My 11-year-old Amelia counts as one of the newest fans of Arnel Pineda and Journey, having probably caught the incredible story on YouTube. Together, we sang along to the anthem as proudly Pinoy Arnel recently walked the stage as "Ferry Ferry Rocks for Relief."

MTV Philippines made it all possible, melding multi-generations in a music cube at the Mall of Asia. The original schedule was victimized by "Ondoy," but it turned out to be a lucky Rocks for Katy Perry's world tour, this time made bigger by fantastic front acts like MAE, Jed Madela and, of course, Journey featuring Arnel Pineda and band.

Tail-end

Amelia and I just made it to the MOA, as the concert was the tail-end of a three-part day for me. My blonde wig and outfit were well-cued that day, which starred in the finals of "Celebrity Dares Season 3," where perhaps entrepreneur Joel Cruz was declared grand champion. The finale was super-tight, as actor Jomari Yllana and model-turned-actor Akihiro Sato put up a good fight.

From ORH's state-of-the-art stage, I hurried to The Lounge, the sleek, new all-white-deli-cue place of fellow "Dares" alum Heydel. Bbo. I was officially Heydel's first guest in the star-studded opening that included show biz mega-couple Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera, vampy Gloria-zine Reyes and other guests of honor.

The Lounge will be a fantastic place to chill at night, replete with electric beats and iced treats. Seating dis-ing, it will also cater to corporate and social events. Heydel's new bar is located at 2/F Bellagio Square, Tomas Morato, Quezon City. For reservations, contact Francis Dalao at 0915-6341221.

By the time I collected Aranha and her cadre of cousins and made it to the concert, Journey was just starting. MTV Philippines' head Francis Lumen opened as smoking as usual, in a wink of an eye, we were right next to the stage itself.

Listening to Arnel reminded me that we had recently sung together, at the awarding ceremony of the 11th Cinemanila International Film Festival last month. I had been invited there by event director and Taguig First Lady Kaye Tinga, accompanied by Mayor Freddie.

Brilliant broke loose when Katy scored, the pretty Californian giving us rousing renditions of her hits like "I Kissed a Girl" and "Hot N Cold." Even more charming was

CONCERT (C)

CINEMANILA guest performer Arnel Pineda and Ina Feleo.

KATY Perry girlfriends: Tisha Siregar, Sabine Hindori, Breanna Pestano, Annika Valdez, Chesca and Tara Imperial, Mariella Ulchiez and Nicky Garcia

KATY fans: Teddy Ravis, Janine and Gabrielle Dans

"Home Life" co-host Richie Jarvellana and Mona Bonnevie at Katy concert

JOHNOSAN singing at an Katy Perry fan in Manila

Concert, fun run, chillout time—what's not to like?

TIMEX: Lucenzo was under-se Pinto Pascual with Silverstein International Corporation's Arlinda Ulcuangchaubon; NIC president George Wittel; multiple champion running coach Rio de la Cruz and Bob Morsel, chairman of the Mount Group of Companies

CARLOS digest: Hamed Lama and Kitty Duran

TIME RUN: Coach Rocio la Cruz and host Wanbi and first-place runner Pinto Pascual

POLO Pascual with Timex brand director Serena Pagdilao

HOT STUFF: Pinto with runner-chicks Leah Cariaga, Leona Carranza, Coach Rocio de Leon, Joy Princess and Lara Pangan

UST CHEERLEADERS at the Texas Run

MIO-CBN family: Gabby Lopez, Gina Lopez, Jessa Lopez and their kids at the Pasig Run

LOOK-ALIKE friends Karen Davila and Susan Cruz

Protocopy 6/1

that how actually did rock he relief by going to Haribon to distribute relief goods.

All the net proceeds of the fundraising concert were donated to the Philippine Red Cross, the concert's only beneficiary. Katy told the giant crowd she was ecstatic to be finally performing in Manila. Since it was the last leg of her world tour, at the end of the show, she threw all her stage gear to the audience, and one grand, unlikely strawberry went to Amelia and her cousins.

Full Sunday

After that three-gig Saturday, I had a full Sunday as well, starting at 5 a.m. at the Timex Run at The Fort. Most of what is really fitting when your running days is Pinto Pascual, the awesome team of 47 runners for a 30K run is so quite impressive.

It's great to be running again. A week ago, I joined 22,000 runners at the Philippine International Marathon. 8 Run for the Pasig River." Organized by true champion collector Gina Lopez and Eagle Magazine to Pasig (MMPR) and under the helm of race director Rudy Biscocho, the Pasig Run hopes to one day rehabilitate the river that runs through Manila.

They raised over 5 million pesos that day. Bravo, Gina!

Just like the Pasig Run, Coach Rio de la Cruz was overwhelmed at the turnout of the well-organized Timex Run. All the top category winners won cash prizes, but most importantly, Timex watches.

Timex also donated to the Timex Unicef School in Bataan, and to ABS-CBN Foundation, getting managing director Gina Lopez team—and two finishers in a row, as the first-man both donated to her foundation.

The Timex Run was backed by Robinsons Land, Nature Valley Crunchy Granola Bar, 100 Plus Isotonic Sports Drink, Summit Mineral Water, Novotel and Nike. I think all the runners and I appreciated how much they could finish and their rush off to see the Misamy Pangasinan light.

I went off to the Amazon Collection to see the Pacquiao, along with 10,000 other fervent fans. Of course, we were not disappointed and, I must say, Boxer's nothing like the current champ of the Big Dream, which nothing is big-eyed. I'll be sure to be there again for Floyd Mayweather Jr. next year!

Sth were all in parallel in the Plaza, especially when La Diva (Jennelyn Mijar, Aiza Seguerra and Michele Gumabao sang the national anthem. Those melodious girls also performed at the Dream Lucky Dance for charity in Cebu, their Mini Museum concert on Nov. 29 will (Sangkuyan Station) and Dec. 6 with Mijar Alexander at 6 p.m. Tickets at Rustland Book Store and all Ticketworld outlets.

Great project

Don't drop believing, indeed! Another great project is Mongol Bonell's "Sang Mikong Mongol Ron is Sang Mikong Pangarap." The iconic pencil is distributed by Ron Pepsi Corporation, and Ito Pinoy movers Arroyo and Ann Margaret Tan are going back with their new campaign, which will provide underprivileged public school children school supplies and writing tools.

Dynamic personalities like Ken Alvarado, Dindot Quiniper, Tim Yap and Joni Madd are part of the advocacy launch on Thursday, Nov. 26, at InHel Hotel.

Creative photographer Raymund Isaac is also involved and has invited all to experience the display of the Mongol based on the iconic.

Lovable Mother's Book Store guest Anne Sinclair Ramos gives this opportunity.

Through this campaign, Ben Paper will be helping a million students take steps forward fulfilling their dreams. Among the supporters of the campaign are National Bookstore Foundation, Scribd Philippine Plaza Manila, E.U.E.E. Pencil Corp., Alvalo Foundation's Centers and the Department of Education.

To be sooner to give back already, and it all starts with the annual UST Glee Club Concert at the UST Chapel on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. The overall, the UST Tuboos don't usually agree to events, but thanks to the efforts of Maestro Ed Mercado and Fr. Didier Abalos, OP, the UST Christmas Concert will even be followed by a cocktail reception at the UST Museum.

The UST Glee is for the benefit of the heritage conservation efforts and Conservatory of Music scholarship funds. You is just one of the events leading to the big UST quadricentennial celebration in 2011.

My two-year-old nephew and readers in UST make me a Thomasian, so I am looking forward to all the festivities.

E-mail the author at inq@mozzarellagmail.com.ph.

JOURNEY in Manila with Arnel Pineda (at podium) and Neal Schon

INCOMAN light at the Big Dome, Joey and Kristel to Benedicto, Alexis and Sarina Lacsina, Breanna Cuenca's Sunny Marcial and Dennis and Nina Valdez

TIMEX models in fashion at the Timex Run

LA DIVA at Los Vegas, Jennelyn Lacsina, Jennelyn Mijar and Michele Gumabao

TIMEX Pinto Pascual, Rocio de la Cruz, Rio de la Cruz and Bob Morsel

UST Christmas Gala head Maricris and Virgo Ezekiel

PASIG Run concert: Brad Arcilla

"CELEBRITY Dance" finalists Mercado Cuenca, Ogie Alcasid and Queen Tan

ANNUAL UST Christmas Concert at the UST Chapel

Best dressed for Cancer Society benefit

THE 2009 BEST DRESSED WOMEN OF THE Philippines were recently presented in a fashion show at the Shangri-La Makati.

The 2009 Best Dressed Style Icons are Elyssa Layus and Rhodora Alegrado. The 2009 Best Dressed awardees are Clementine de Guzman, Agnes Budlayan, Gilda Lim, Toni Madrigal, Alissa Lopez Hontiveros, Joanna Rae Romero, Gian Sotto Santos, Arven Aguilar Tee and Patty Tobiano.

The 2009 Best Dressed Ambassador for life are Mabel Abello, Cecile Bautista, Tina Castro, Betty Ocampo, Cristy de Jesus, Hilarion Ferrer, Noel Gonzalez, Ray Granados, Maribeth Holmgren, Mary Lozhbin, Dr. Annie Uy, Ned Laing, Gigi Lukas, Poly Mojares, Ruby Orbe, Margie Ortiz-Luis, Irving Tiongco and Minnie Widen.

It was held for the benefit of the Philippine Cancer Society, which aims to promote funds through special events, awareness and its regular care programs.

The celebration was spearheaded by honorary event chairman and philanthropist Imelda Dagdale Cojuangco, event chairman Leonel Rebot Ong, co-chairman Betty Cojuangco, committee members Leonel Fortuner Ledesma, Johnny Litton, Pitoy Moreno and PCS Chair Dr. Rolando Pabreza.

ELYSSA Layus

TERESITA Mendiorena and Marissa Fermin

HELEN Ong

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Parents interested in seeking enrollment for their children may contact the school at headmaster@beaconschool.ph to arrange an appointment, and they should visit our website at www.beaconacademy.ph to access additional information and download application forms.

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E-mail: admissions@beaconschool.ph; headmaster@beaconschool.ph
Website: www.beaconacademy.ph

22nd Eucharistic Congress celebrates Year of the Priest

MS. APOLINARIO TE SEE, SPIRITUAL director of the Eucharistic Adorers' League, says that the theme of the theme for the 22nd Eucharistic Congress on Nov. 28 coincides with the wish of the Holy Father that the Church celebrates the year the Year of the Priest.

She says, "Hopefully, this year's Eucharistic Congress topic will help the faithful enter the spirit of the 'Year of the Priest' through better appreciation of our common priesthood or the priesthood of all believers. And the more important aspect of the priesthood is its connection to the Eucharist."

To continues, "As John Paul II puts it, The Eucharist is the principal and central cause of the effectiveness of the priesthood, which effectively came into being at the moment of the institution of the Eucharist, and together with it. Since without reason the words 'Do this in memory of Me' are said immediately after the words of Eucharistic consecration, and we repeat them every time we celebrate the Holy Eucharist."

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barong

The Eucharistic Congress is prepared by both the Pink Sisters and Eucharistic Adorers' League who organized registration at 7 a.m., set up TV monitors in the St. Joseph convent compound on Hemady St., Sta. Rosa. Food is prepared free as from 1,500 people during lunch and snack time.

Speakers

The following are the speakers with their topics: Fr. Apolinario Te, SSS (Eucharist as the summary of Christ's presence in the life of a priestly people at 8:30 a.m.); University of Santo Tomas Rector Magnificus Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP (Eucharist as the sacrifice of a priestly people, 10:30 a.m.); and Abra Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian (Eucharist as the pledge and sign of hope for a priestly people, 2:30 p.m.).

The procession of the Blessed Sacrament shall be presided by Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco at 4 p.m. The Holy Mass is at 4:30 p.m.

AyalaLand
Come and Light Up the Season
Ayala Land introduces the Ayala Triangle Gardens, with over a hundred trees, public art displays, and an outdoor courtyard designed to soothe and inspire. Ayala Triangle Gardens celebrates the season with the following activities:

A CHRISTMAS SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS
A nightly holiday light and sound show by renowned theater lighting director Roberto M. Jacob and multi-awarded sound designer Jolbert Joaquin
November 20 to December 23
Mondays to Fridays
every 30 minutes from 6-7:30pm

KRIBITH
by Christo Cantinveros
Sculptures inspired by the spirit of Christmas. Art pieces will be on display at the Ayala Triangle Gardens.
November 20 to January 15, 2010

CHRISTMAS BREEZE
by Kai Avugarne
Kinetic sculptures that sing with the wind. Art pieces will be on display at the Ayala Triangle Gardens.
November 20 to January 15, 2010

TRADITION AT THE COURTYARD
Filipino traditions that bring joy and cheer to all seasons, then to Christmas

COURTYARD CHRISTMAS CAROLS
November 25, December 2 & 7
Wednesdays 7pm

COURTYARD CAFÉ
RHYTHMING THE BIG CHILL
DELIRIANCE AND AFRO
November 20 to December 23
Weekdays 11am - 4pm

ANTICIPATED
SIMBANG GABI
December 15 to 18
& 21 to 23
Weekdays 330pm

GLOBE AND BPI AT THE COURTYARD
Ayala Triangle Gardens is a Wi-Fi hotspot, powered by Globe.
Art Talk by Globe provides information on the art pieces via SMS and MMS.
Art pieces at the Ayala Triangle Gardens are for sale and can be purchased via BPI Credit Cards.
www.owwin.com www.ayalalandphilippines.com www.globelink.com.ph

International healer here

International healer Bob Canion will lead the healing service of the Kerygma Conference 2009 in the Ayalaya Coliseum on Nov. 28-29.

Centered on the theme "Strain Big, Win Big" the conference will include the celebration of the Holy Mass, lively worship, powerful talks by Sts. Bo Sanchez and Kerygma presidents.

The conference is presented by Light of Jesus Family whose beneficiaries include Ayuwin, home for abandoned elderly; Ate Cano, home for unwed children; Tahanan ng Pag-mamahal, home for abandoned children; Grace to be Born, pro-life ministry that operates by giving more women a second chance; and Pag-ibig sa Pamilya Foundation, scholarship program for indigent youth.

Rosary for Life

The Rosary for Life Philippines supports the Grace to be Born shelter in Pasig. Seven babies were saved from being aborted. They were baptized last Nov. 14 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Pasig.

The group, headed by Betty Bonus Chua, celebrated its ninth anniversary last Nov. 13. They hold a Mass on the third Wednesday of the month after praying the five mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

True Life in God

Fr. Rufino Nicolas, SJ, is inviting everyone to a day of prayer, healing, reparation and unity on Nov. 28, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the True Life in God 24th anniversary at the Holy Family Church on Signboy Street, Barangay San Isidro, Makati City (tel. 893-7878).

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Vogue book on fab people and parties will make a great Christmas gift

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

ANDY SAN DIEGO

HOT OFF THE SHELF—Vogue's "People, Parties and Places" coffee-table book, launched in the US last Nov. 17, is the quintessential read and perfect adornment for any home.

It contains more than 250 photographs of actors, models, First Ladies and society figures who have appeared in the pages of Vogue over the past decades, photographed by legendary photographers such as Irving Penn, Richard Avedon, Stephen Meisel, Steven Meisel, Herb Ritts and Annie Leibovitz.

More than 250 photos of actors, models, First Ladies and society figures—it's a feast

The book is divided into five sections—The Women, The Parties, The Actresses, The Haves, and Haves and Models.

Visible pages contain glamorous weddings; gardens from San Hamptons to Cannes, homes in Paris, New York, Italy; the legendary Black-and-White Ball of Truman Capote; the annual Costumes Institute party of the Metropolitan Museum; and name-droppables like Michelle Obama, Kate Moss, Madonna, Angelina Jolie, Cate Blanchett and Jacqueline Kennedy.

FROM P2

ALIW Awards honors 100% Total Performers Gary & Gab V.

Vogue book on fab . . .

Front page 1 of 2

On the cover are the handsome couple Sara Brady and Glenn Bradshaw. The book just came out in the US and For just received my copy from Amazon. Last year, the book "Vogue Living—Houses, Gardens and People" was my favorite Christmas gift to special friends. This year, this one will probably be my favorite.

Must-have T-shirt—Cancer Campaign Limited Edition. It isn't Christmas yet, and I've unwrapped probably five here. T-shirts anyone can ask for. Brazilian designers Farmacia and Humberto Campana have designed and teamed up with everyone's favorite sex friend—Lacoste—to create a signature look based on the alligator logo.

These limited-edition shirts (only 20,000 pieces worldwide) have designs that look like the alligators are rocking to music beats. The shirts will be launched in sync this December with parties in Beijing, Seoul, Bangkok and Singapore, with the Campana brothers in attendance.

I would like to thank Wendi Cancellieri, the Asia Director of Lacoste, for the wonderful present!

Malibu Boy Bairstow—I have not had this much fun to a resort in the Philippines in a long time. The Malibu Batangas resort in Cuprum Island, Albay (tel. 6636222 /cell. 0861 and 3602, www.malibuboy.com.ph), is truly one of the places I would love to come back to time and time again.

Despite the fact that it does not have the same famed white sands as Boracay or the world-class beach resorts in Bohol, Bairstow, it makes up for such with the activities it offers.

It's a world-class resort with 39 luxurious suites, some even having their own plunge pool. I tried wakeboarding for the first time and was able to get up on my chest try. I also rode an ATV that showed me parts of the property still in development, such as a zip line as well as wall-climbing facilities.

I can't wait for next year, between the months of January to June, when the whale sharks make their presence known to the islands. I highly recommend this place for lovers of adventure and nature.

Final note—I got another early Christmas gift from the Philippine Tatler's October cover girl, international designer Tory Burch. She sent me a beautiful Hermès grey-and-white cashmere blanket with a note saying:

"Dear Amboy, Pitou, I am completely blown away by the story in Tatler! How can we ever thank you enough?! Hope to see you soon.

X, Tory"

Isabel Rocha answers siren's call

By Bibsy M. Carballo
Contributor

A HUGE MEETING THIS afternoon, artistocrat Spanish-Filipino maestro for the first time would wonder why on earth she would be happily holed up in a place like the Gran Canaria?

At the prime of her life when the life is really the new 40s, Isabel Barbacorta Rocha seemed to belong to the vibrant Philippine society of fashion leaders, charities, prisoners of causes, a byword in the art scene. Why would she leave behind family, friends, socialites and a husband to go barefoot in the sand?

When we first met her in June on the occasion of her "Supramagic Heaven" exhibition co-presented by the Spanish Ministry of Culture and the Embassy of the Philippines in Madrid, she spoke of leaving left the Philippines in 2009 for Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Spain, and was apparently here to stay.

Prior to that, she was customarily enamored to Philippine society and the art scene with enough homes to run on—a magna run lands in Hacienduelos in Art and English from the Thomas's Cebu, various Art Galleries in Cebu and Manila owned and operated with husband Boots, Cibi Gallery at Megamall in Cainta, curator of home Bobbias sculptor Rebate Ilo's exhibitions at the Shangri-La, Basic Training in Metallurgy, Art Conservation and Restoration from the National Museum Manila, third planet in the Ortensian Foundation's awards, 2004, Nine Rule, inclusion in several books on Philippine Art by Alice Guillermo and Rhimod Bobbias; partnership in the magazine Arte Siwa based in Manhattan and distributed in New York, Spain and London.

"I like it in Las Palmas. The lifestyle is so different. Life is simple. I walk everywhere, do everything myself. It is a paradise for artists," she says.

Adie Cancio has been welcomed by openly calling her La Diva Isabel (in contrast to the internationally famous Filipina Isabel Preysler).

When her son Mikki told his parents he was going to Canada to study in a hotel school, and daughter Ivi fell toward a year affair in study nursing, Isabel knew they were not coming back, and decided the only way she could be with her children was to join them. Apparently, the island is somewhat of magnet that nations and habits are in her spell like a siren's call. Being of Spanish descent, it was easy enough for Isabel to get her residency in a month's time.

Her citizenship is due for release, she says, within the year. At the same time, she and her husband have checks between Canaria and the Philippines, and the arrangement seems to suit them both.

Stewardship of Canary

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria shares today with the city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife the stewardships of the Canary Islands. This rivalry led to the division of the archipelago into two provinces which ended the argument but not the rivalry. Las Palmas where Isabel and her children live has a population of 377,000+ plus, while the easier province of Gran Canaria has around 800,000+ with lots of tourists which is the island's primary industry.

"Having larger pc city licked practices," Isabel says, laughing.

It was like a throwback in time to the era when living was very simple, she continues, observing how her art has changed and evolved since moving to Spain.

"My brush strokes are stronger and I now work with mixed media because everything is come of art material is available here in Spain."

Her works are a fusion of the Asian and Spanish. She is fascinated by the similarity in cultures. Her paintings invariably present the Filipino to the world art scene.

Apart from murals and accessories, Isabel's portraits hang in museums and many offices in the Philippines, and her oils can be found in private collections in asia, the Middle East, US and Europe.

Exhibit

The exhibit "Impressions and Illusions," was presented by the Wilmer Door Gallery at the Rockwell Power Plant with her son Iñaki, his First, and her Isabel, the first since 1985.

"I am scared," she confesses. "I'm completely out of touch with the Manila art scene."

It has helped that Wilmer Door is run by Rina Rocha, a sister she saw growing up when their mother Mitchi and Isabel both shared a home in New Manila and artistic aspirations that resulted in the formation of Galeria Rocha to the early '80s in Manila.

Since then, Isabel has never stopped painting, was mentoring her art students whether in her Manila or Las Palmas home. She learns from them as much as they from her. She teaches them the basics of an old style of painting in oil with the impressions, layers upon layers of paint, glazing upon glazing that the frustrate until in the last rebuke takes too much time and patience for today's painters, she says.

Then she current mindset contained, mostly in anatomy since there is no School of Fine Arts yet in Las Palmas. And she lets them go to discover their own styles, their own styles, with the admonition that their painting must not look like hers, but should be their own.

Isabel's work today is a perfect fusion of her Asian and Spanish heritage. Many things like the fronts of the Shrine or the 19th Sense in Cebu where she grew up are so much like the religious celebrations in Spain. So are their food, she says, like the paellera, and the Filipino Colonial style that she wore as a kid at St. Paul's grade school in Manila.

Isabel's canvases are a combination of pop art with elements of the surreal and minimal with rock music that he started experimenting with as vocalist of the Lightnin Lobster and an Uruguayan guitarist Rayo Estanza.

They call themselves the Pacific Atomic Freak Express, the Uruguayan-Philippine Luxury Connection, featured in Las Palmas in 2005. This underground scene is to think what the Wilmer Underground was to Salvador Dali in the '50s.

It would have been a totally enriching experience had Iñaki and the band been present at the exhibit that would present the dichotomy of another art scene, with their own interpretations of women as subject matter.

What is next for Isabel is a group show in December in New York where she is bringing along one of her outstanding students from La Salesian. Rina is an institution for a show in Bilbao, Colombia where she is having yet another student, and an International painting together with Iñaki. This is again a first for mother and son.

The artist Isabel does not stop experimenting. She has already decided to start work on a series on Mariang Makiling. She has also set the ball rolling for an exhibition of other artists in the Cebu Crusade, something like the Art Association of the Philippines of long ago, she reminisces.

As we continued discussing issues of her place for the little island she had adopted and which apparently has also taken her into their hearts, we realized that the night had been hastened. Time rushing off in his usual slows somewhere in the mall. It certainly looks like sometime soon, the entire family will be together once more in this island in the sun for many.

E-mail the author at bibsycarballo@yahoo.com

Hotel holds charity dinner show

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA | 101, 108 1000, which is celebrating its 10th year this year, will hold a dinner show Lines and Movements, on Nov. 26, at its Grand Ballroom. Its proceeds will go to the Center for Health Improvement and Life Development (Child Save), a halfway house in Manila for sick children from the provinces while they undergo medical treatment. Ticket holders will be entitled to a 4-course gourmet dinner inclusive of wine, hallowe'en, a show-feature by a 23-piece band, an collection by the Dean of Filipino Designers, Ben Farales, and dance numbers by the world-acclaimed Bayanihan. A necklace of gold South Sea pearls by Jewelmer will likewise be auctioned off for charity by famous Lifestyle columnist, Maurice Arcache.

Converse sale, promo

Converse will have its annual sale on Dec. 5-6, at SM Megamall's Megatrade Hall 3. Up for grabs are shoes, bags, tees and accessories at up to 70 percent off. Chuck Taylors, Jack Purcells, performance shoes for basketball and running await shoppers. Want to win a year's supply of free Converse stuff? Just conserve inside

play zone, sign up and post a bow- to four-minute song masterpiece.

Pan Pacific promo

From now until Feb. 28, 2010, Pan Pacific guests will receive 15 percent savings off the Best Available Rate when they stay at Pan Pacific Manila. Guests are now able to plan ahead and enjoy significant savings as this promotion's rate for stays until May 31, 2010. The SuperSaver Room Promotion (tel. 38 0700; www.panpacific.com/manila) rate includes guaranteed late checkout until 3 p.m.

Art Festival

Green Light, Lasallian Festival of Art will be held Nov. 26-Dec. 15 in exhibit area of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong (tel. 8981 8100, 7238418 /7238513)

Airline promo

This holiday season, Singapore Airlines (tel. 7988888; www.singaporeair.com) starts non-breaking outbound fare at 19,777 service, thanks to four daily services from Manila. Get pampered by the Economy Class in-flight service for only US$1140 inclusive of taxes and surcharges. Purchase e-ticket on or 10 Nov. 28 for travel between Dec. 1-31 (outbound) and Jan. 1-31, 2010 (return).

Korean festival

To culminate the year-long celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Philippines-Korea Diplomatic Relations, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea will hold a cultural festival on Nov. 20-27 at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Traditional and modern cultural performances will be held. Admission is free. Tickets are available at the CCP.

Fashion show

Hayan Andrada launches her Little Princess collection on Nov. 24, 6 p.m., at the terrace level of Shangri-La Plaza. Dirigan Gender. Available at Greenbags Store.

Like Ebay, only better

By Pam Pavez

IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET, YOU need to go beyond television.

That was remembering GMA marketing president Monbuy Quiogue knows.

"Since QTV is a station for women, we thought it would be good if it can have its own website, its own portal for women," he said.

Then put up WMN – Where Women Click! (www.wmn.ph), a website for Filipino women. The site covers topics that concern women—from style, wellness and leisure to home and relationships. It features articles, celebrity blogs, videos, a forum where women can interact with one another, a shopping guide and yes, the web pages of different QTV shows.

Quiogue said, "We promote WMN on television and are positive QTV on WMN. We even promote."

Special auction

A website, no matter how good, is pointless without hearty traffic. Quiogue's team thought of a great way to bring people to the site. "In order to drive traffic to the website, we thought of a promotion."

They launched Love to Watch, Love to Bid, a special auction that allowed QTV viewers and WMN users to bid on products online.

Tying up with eight different sponsors, Quiogue's team planned eight special packages that would appeal to the demographic of eight different QTV shows.

Kris on Q and Ajaysonne gave away a trip for four to Hong Kong Disneyland. The Bret and BFF game was a Hongkong food trip for two; Pit & Pab and Alaska Blue auctioned off a home gym system; Sare Does and Cream Silk gave away an adventure trip in Cotabato or bungee jumping in Marina for two; Secrets of the Shakes and Pond's Age Miracle gave away fine dining for two every month for every year packages; The Boost Life and Coke Light gave away spa treatment every month for 12 months; Q Bike and Choco Mucho gave away a multimedia package that included a laptop, iPhone and one-year broadband subscription; Fashionaire by Bruce and Ronaldo gave away a Store Specialist Purple Card worth P1,00,000.

The prizes were so exciting that even non-jonnel the promo, never mind that the website's primary target market was women.

There's the first panic. The auction servers didn't need cash to pay for the items they won. All they needed were points. GMA Marketing and GMA New Media devised a way for QTV viewers and WMN users to win points by watching QTV and visiting the website.

42 million points

Marketing assistant Gino Delmocino said: "From July 31 until August, those who registered for the promo earned points by doing a lot of things on the website from simply logging on and logging out, to answering a quiz and watching a video. There were so many ways to earn points. You were can guess words on TV and if you input them, you get points for that, too."

Users got 300 points for logging in, 50 points for posting a comment, 50 points for subscribing to the newsletter, 50 points for a correct answer in a TGIS trivia question, 250 points for clicking sponsor ads, and 1500 points for taking a quiz.

The people behind WMN expected users to collect around two to three million points but were surprised to see users with 30, 50 and even 42 million points. That's because they allowed users to recycle their points.

"That's when we realized that the economy was already in series," Delmocino said.

They knew Love to Bid, Love to Watch was a hit when they saw the surge of traffic to their website, Quiogue shared. "We knew we had a good promo, we knew our prizes were exciting but we had no idea it would take off this fast, this soon. Our target was to get one million page views by October but we got seven million views as early as August."

Look at WMN's statistics, it's clear that their hits started after the promo was launched.

Their bounce rates also dropped—that means people were visiting the website and staying and surfing. "The average person spends 17 minutes on the site," Quiogue said.

The auctions were running. "People love auctions, they get carried away," Quiogue said.

MECKOY Quiogue (center) and his team

VISIT www.wmn.ph.

Excitement

The last few minutes of every auction were especially exciting. "People would help the highest bidders bid by donating points," Delmocino said.

Angelina Cabatian, General Manager and SVP for Business Development and Operations of GMA New Media Inc., shared that the excitement of the auctions. "Example is the one[, one woman was outbidding herself. I guess maybe no one was getting points too."

Tetet Cuanco of the Marketing Services Group added, "Love blood to draw (sic)."

The stress was well worth it for that woman who ended up bagging one of the prizes.

And because the people behind QTV and WMN wanted more people to be happy, "We also gave gadgets to the ten people who had the most number of points after the auction. We also have 300 winners of consolation prizes."

Making sure their clients were satisfied was also a priority. Delmocino said, "We're a marketing company first so, satisfying the client is very very important. We created microsites for our clients, microsites that people can visit."

WMN still has a lot of things in store for QTV viewers and website users. They've had the Kelly Clarkson Giveaway Promo, The Body Shop Canvas and they are currently running the Big Diwad Giveaway which gives women the chance to win Diwad packages if they share hair and makeup tricks.

Deadline for beverage recipe contest set

CHEF Reinaldo Lacdico's Sapak punch—an exotic mix of solubol and watermelon—with BenniFiber powder

CHRISTMAS Salad ni-coo de bois-vanilla in whole tomato topped with crisp Christmas buro on orange-and-pomelo salad, drizzled with BenniFiber

By Irene C. Perez

IT'S THE SEASON OF eating and merrymaking, and it helps if you have enough fiber in your diet to speed up digestion.

BenniFiber is an easy to take natural fiber supplement made of wheat dextrin, a 100 percent natural soluble fiber that promotes a healthy digestive system.

Unlike other fiber supplements, BenniFiber doesn't become thick, gloppy and gel like when left to stand. It literally disappears and can be mixed in any non-carbonated drink and food item.

"BenniFiber is non-gritty, and has no sugar and gluten. You can mix it in liquids like water, milk, coffee, juice, and will feed the palates and yoghurt," said Joseph O'Neill, commercial director of Novartis. BenniFiber distributor.

Fiber up!

When lowers had cholesterol that causes cardiovascular diseases, helps regulate blood sugar level and lowers the risk of colorectal cancer.

"BenniFiber regulates the appetite because it stays in the gut longer providing a feeling of satiety, making you feel full," said nutritionist Dr. Mesdie Austria.

Chef Reinaldo Lacdico whipped up a BenniFiber Christmas lunch at the recent launch in Shiza Filipino restaurant at The Fort. The menu consists of Christmas Salad (Coco de Bois vanilla with tomato, crisp buro and orange-and-pomelo relish); Christmas Roast Silow-roasted virgin boar belly with oatmeal pesoto; and Christmas Salad (Spanish chocolate with strawberry and kiwi puree). All items are infused with BenniFiber.

"Use BenniFiber in the salad dressing and beef sauce. It can be added while cooking soups, dips, desserts and snacks without compromising food palatability and preservation," Lacdico said.

BenniFiber comes in an 80-g. tasle and box of seven sachets. Each serving (2 tsp. or 1 sachet) is equal to 3 g of dietary fiber. Recommended dosage is 2 tbsp. twice daily for 12 years old and up, and 2 tsp. once a day for kids 7-11 years old.

Whip up healthy and delicious drinks

Best-drink contest

Novartis is holding the Beverage Recipe Contest until Nov. 30. Chef Lacdico prepared a sample drink—the Squid Punch, a refreshing mix of solubol, watermelon and BenniFiber.

The BenniFiber Beverage Recipe Contest (call #1203271 local 104 or visit www.novartis.com.ph for guidelines) is open to all Filipinos 18 years old and above. The recipe must have readily available but fresh ingredients. Drinks should be unconventional, non-carbonated and non-alcoholic, and must have BenniFiber mixed in. Cash prizes and gift packs await winners.

Here's a sample of a healthy, fiber-rich drink:

Frosty Fruit Smoothie

1 c orange juice (you may substitute other fruit choices)
2 tbsp BenniFiber
1 banana
2 c frozen fruit—peaches, berries, melon

Blend juice and BenniFiber for 30 seconds. Add the banana and blend until smooth.

Makes two servings.

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ASSUMPTION HS CLASS 1984

One singular 'velada' with renewed purpose

VELADA: Inside scenes and shakes: Vina Concepcion Manzanero (back row, 4th from left) with fellow jubilarians

HELPING out with the Mesa, Arroz Ly-Narciso, Carmen Banzon-Herrero, Sandy Prieto Bermudez and Hazel Molina

THE ASSUMPTIONIAN Alumnae Association and its board members can always be counted on for their steadfast support for all jubilarians. Inez Abrams Peñaloza, Gina Gabaldon Hechanova, Hilberta Gramjo, president of AAA, Sr. Regina, RA, Mary-ree Damian de los Santos

THE CLASS of 1984 is ready to sing the reunion spirit: Tina Hinson, Gina Torres Evangelista, Malu Gamboa, Carmela Rivera and Kitty Santiago Jacinto

THE VELADA—THAT grand homecoming event, reunion and reconnection to high school life that every Assumption alumna looks forward to—happened this year in the shadow of Tropical Depression 'Ondoy' and the devastation it caused.

The high-school class of 1984, this year's silver jubilarians, saw this as an opportunity to lend concrete assistance through the funds raised by the yearly festivities. The velada's proceeds usually went strictly to the Assumption students and its charities.

Now, the Assumptionistas get together and their singing-dancing-performing skills during the program would also be in service to a specific cause: the rehabilitation of typhoon victims.

But, first, the traditional opening, in which the old girls—many of them now pillars of society, government, the arts and various professions—marched into the campus' wooing their high-school confidantes. The reunion gathered at the Assumption chapel for a mass celebrated by Fr. Vic Apacible.

The highlight of any velada is the show presented by the class in the spotlight. That show, held for only one night, is the product of months of planning, rehearsals, fittings, not to mention endless laughter and reminiscing among the women. (The class had started their fundraising activities over a year ago with facilitation, tournaments, dinner parties, theater performances and the publication of a homecoming book.)

Highschool days of 1984's show, held at Assumption Sisi Lorenzo's Alaabor Boat Auditorium, was called "Still One... Its Expression of The Class' commitment not only to unity among themselves, but also to their needs for a better world. The song

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CHITTHA Andrea Trinidad, Maryann Villareal Timbol, Jackie Ejercito Lopez, Tina Antonio Rosas, Vina Concepcion Manzanero, Jeannie Bautista Olivarez, Marian Angel Dimaisip and Pudge Carreonne Garcia

THE ACHS Class of 1984—their message is the need for change. Their commitment is to start the change beginning with themselves.

PUDGY Carreonne Garcia, Tina Antonio Rosas, Truman Simeon Clement, Vina Concepcion Manzanero, Christine Javier, Lois Regala, Angela Marquez Roy and Carmen Bataoel Herrera

THE GOLDEN Girls in sparkle stage with their vibrant colors. Margo Kate Garcia, Tessa da Silva Cuaycot, Bishop Ornea Brandon, Cyanie Singh, Chiquita Corrigan, Marilyn Manalaysay-Vanderbrugh and Gerry Rooney Hoppe

One singular 'velada' with renewed purpose

To page 11

JIVE! Cres. Josefina Mica, Marissa Sadog Manahan, Maryann Villareal Timbol, Cathy Palaoro Sumaraviia and Gigi Gloria Villarama

that best encapsulated this was the closing number, "One is the Merrier", a reworking of the Michael Jackson anthem, about uniting for the common good.

Another "must" provoked that nostalgia—the opening dance by the class, to the strains of "Star Singular Sensation" from the Broadway show "A Chorus Line."

Call it a statement of purpose as well. Amid the calls for help and social consciousness, the Assumptionistas won't forget to have fun, sensational fun, in this party too.

And so they did. The exciting show also featured performances by the jubilarians of the dinner 1969, 1969, 1969, 1974 and 1979. With the help of choreographer Andrew Resuello, dance captain Ron Ebol, scriptwriter Luzi Ortiz-Luis, vocal coach Jeff Ardilla and overall director Audie Gemora, these corps of accomplished, graceful women, majority of whom were non-professional performers, gave their all for this is once-a-year moment of fellowship.

Assuming for assumptive and the regular bonds and values to last here to them. Still one, indeed, after all these years.

ACHS Silver Jubilarians take a breather with choreographer Andrew Resuello and Sr. Regina after the show.

PEACE! Tatiana Salvador, Yvette Jaimelen Magno, Jessica del Rosario Cudiam and Pia Bravo

PEACE! Packy and Rory at 20!

SILVER Jubilarian Cherie Aragada Jadloman sings "Magkaisa."

THE ACHS Class of 1974 goes bright and light!

THE RUBY Jubilarians show their talents get-up and ask vote now!

THE DIAMOND Jubilarians

THE GOLDEN Girls won the audience with their dance moves.

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VIEW of the Church of San Frediano at the Ruins of the river

Florence—the Renaissance jewel saved from the Great Flood

40 years later, the late US Senator Kennedy recalled a human chain forming in a ruined library to rescue fragile manuscripts

By Ian Mundy
Guest Travel

IN THE EARLY MORNING LIGHT, the Arno looks so peaceful. But in 90 minutes were unprepared for Tropical Storm "Gordon," the residents of Florence would not imagine the devastation their beloved river would cause.

In November 1966, after incessant rains, the Arno broke its banks and submerged the great city of the Renaissance. Much would be lost to victims of filth and livelihood.

The flood is said to have reached levels above 20 feet as indicated by commemorative markers on the walls of buildings. One source narrates how women went crazy with fear, throwing things from windows while imploring for help to save their children.

More than a hundred people died. Whole communities were left isolated for days and vast tracts of farmland were ruined. It is estimated that 5,000 shops had to close. From the streets lining the Ponte Vecchio, the flood bore off gold jewelry never to be seen again. Manola Portaguzzo reported that the shoes from their storage rooms were swept 40 kilometers away.

Vile brew

The losses included cultural treasures. Still, tens of books were damaged along with almost 14,000 works of art. To this day the crucifix of Giovanni Cimabue, though restored from the rampaging waters and recovered, still bears the marks of the flood. It hangs in the Church of Santa Croce as a testament to the power of the Arno.

Even after the waters had receded, the miseries ordeal was not yet over. The whole city was buried under a thick coat of muck and garbage. The tanks had broken and oil had combined with the sediments to form a horribly corrosive mixture. Important manuscripts were disintegrating in this vile brew.

Fortunately, the world's response to the call to save the Cradle of the Renaissance was overwhelming. The late Ted Kennedy remembered how, while visiting Rome on the day of the flood, he received a phone call from his friend since in-law, Jacqueline. She asked that he go on to Florence to help.

Addressing the audience gathered for the anniversary ceremonies to commemorate the immediate 40 years later, Senator Kennedy movingly recounted how, in the darkness of a ruined library, he saw that a human chain had been formed. Along this chain were stored, from one end of that river's anecdote, fragile manuscripts to be liberated from the miseries.

Countless volunteers

The Great Flood or Diluvione, as it would come to be known, would generate a deluge of concern. Miraculously, countless volunteers came from all over the planet to help the Florentines save lives and property.

Those heroes, many of whom were young people, would later be called the angel dei fango—the mud angels. Philippine art gallery owner Sylvana Diaz, who was studying in London at the time, remembers forming collection brigades for donations from Britain.

In the end, the Italian students came up with a brilliant idea. They would generate even more sentiment for Florence by renewing donors with a most tantalizing prize: pots of home-cooked Italian food!

The global outpouring of assistance clearly showed the art of Florence did not just belong to the Florentines. It was the inheritance and responsibility of all humanity. Even before the city and its treasures were inscribed on Unesco's World Heritage List in 1982, the rescue efforts of 1966 had already demonstrated that, without a doubt, the whole world cherished Florence as its very own.

On the 40th anniversary of Diluvione, about 2,000 more angels were invited back for a reunion. The whole city celebrated. Important buildings were decked out in bright purple lights. Images were projected on walls, exhibitions were held.

"Dark Water," a fascinating book by Robert Clark about the events of the flood, came out in 2006. The cover carries Oreste Lani "heroine ing photograph from Life Magazine. It shows the murderous nature of Oreste standing so alone, so vulnerable, in a gallery covered with a layer of mud.

Looking at the picture, one is reminded of a poignant scene from the 2006 movie "Children of Men." The lead character, Theo, needing a critical favor, visits Nigel, a very influential person in the then post-apocalyptic society. As Theo enters Nigel's quarters, one sees in the background Michelangelo's David with one lower leg shattered. It had been salvaged from the ruins of war, an indelible image of the chaos the world may so easily be plunged into.

Selfless courage

One shivers to think of what else may have been lost but for the heroism of unsung people. A 1967 National Geographic article told of how the curator of Florence's Museum of Science risked her life edging along a narrow ledge above the angry waters to save the telescopes of Galileo.

THE FLOODWATERS forced open the doors of the Baptistery of San Giovanni.

DONATELLO'S Mary Magdalene today

DONATELLO'S Mary Magdalene undergoing restoration

WINGED HOUSE of Archangels Peggi after the Flood

BAPTISM of Christ

EXHIBIT various showing how fragments can be displayed to give a sense of the original altar

One wonders, at first, why a person would bat death to save an object. But then, realizing that through these losses was glimpsed the vision that would forever change humankind's image of itself, one understands the reason for such an act of selflessness and courage.

Its heroism was not confined to the harrowing moments of the Deluge. The greater, more gruelling tasks came after. Thousands voluntarily toiled for endless exhausting months to restore Florence's treasures, to clean and to conserve.

One of the most important legacies of Diluvione would be the many conservation techniques perfected here to save ruined artworks. It seems that dismantled three restoration gurus was part of the program for the 40th anniversary. Among the symbols dismayed were ways to remove bronze from crumbling walls, the mass treatment of water-damaged books, the removal of stains and oils.

The restoration exercise were so successful that when visiting the museums of Florence today, one will be unable to discern the scars of the past destruction. Galileo's telescopes again scrape a place of honor in the Museum of Science. Meanwhile, just behind the Duomo, in the Museo dell'Opera which has displays about the Cathedral and its many associated artworks, a number of pieces on exhibit had actually been mutilated back from the jaws of Diluvione.

Besides innumerable ghosts, also from Life Magazine, is that of Donatello's powerful statue of Mary Magdalene being entrusted after its heavy fall had been extruded by the flood's toxic fluids. Today, in its elegant, climate-controlled home in the Museo dell'Opera, the Magdalene statue is ready to move the viewer again.

Celebrated doors

The Magdalene had originally stood in Florence's Baptistery of San Giovanni, which had suffered much from the Deluge. The Baptistery is celebrated for its doors that had been decorated by Lorenzo Ghiberti—so beautiful, they were compared to the very portals of Paradise.

The marvelous interests of 1966 revealed again the doors and knocked off several of Ghiberti's panels. They would have been lost had they not been kept back by a protective railing.

Wonderfully the golden panels can now be seen again in all their splendor. They are displayed in the Museo dell'Opera together with the Magdalene and the original Baptism of Christ trio which used to ornate the entrance to the baptistery.

The Museo dell'Opera del Duomo has much more to offer. There is Michelangelo's other Pieta, which includes a figure thought to be his self-portrait. There are, as well, models of the Cathedral and the death mask of the man responsible for the Cathedral's dome, Filippo Brunelleschi.

The church pieces are lovingly and thoughtfully displayed so that one understands the context in which they were created. There are even rainbows that show how the fragments from a broken altar could be arranged to give a sense of what the decorated original might have looked like.

Overall, the Museo is a splendid example of how a church museum can be set up—something Philippine ecclesiastical institutions could learn from.

Among the many interesting exhibits, however, it is clearly the treasures that had been moved from the Baptistery after the flood which form the highlight of a visit to the Museo. Part of their attraction is the memory of how they were almost lost one dark day more than 43 years ago.

It is truly inspiring to know that once in a rare while, people from different nations will endure the unimaginable to save one more work of art.

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Observe.

Observe what your child likes to do, such as a hobby. Help him develop skills early. Expose your child to resources that keep him interested and motivated. Take the family to watch competitions or attend concerts, so your kid will learn more about his interest and observe the performance of more advanced people in the same field. Subscribe to magazines, buy him books, videos, or software that are related to his natural field of choice. Attend all of his meets, tournaments or recitals so you can gauge his development.

Play.

Play with your child. Playing is your child's natural way of discovering and "working" on a particular skill. Have conversations about what's happening in the neighborhood, and what you all did during the day. Let your child ask questions that you can help him answer. Make up stories together. Read to him. Enjoy games. Paint together. Give him space in the house where you can both play & practice what he loves doing.

Encourage.

Share with her in a loving way your unique experience and knowledge in the area that she is interested in. Serve as motivation for your talented kid's efforts. Challenge your child at the optimal level. Don't put too much pressure though, especially if your expectation from her is unrealistic. Give rewards and praise for a job well done. Decorate your family room with ribbons and trophies that your child has won or fill the scrapbook with newspaper clippings about her achievements. Stress the joys and pride in doing one's best.

A Promil Pre-School reminder to parents on

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

New talents, segments for 'SOP'

"SOP RULES," GMA-7'S SUNDAY AFTERNOON MUSICAL-variety show, is now "SOP: Fully Charged" as the show undergoes a total revamp starting today. New talents and additional segments mark the show's rebirth, although Regine Velasquez, Jaya, Juancy Gibbs and Ogie Alcasid will be retained as main performers, says senior vice president for network management Wilma Galvante.

COMPELLING women, including Nicole Kidman (top) and Sarah "Fergie" Ferguson (right) in one week, plus star of the buzz Kristen Stewart, one-on-one (just) in a new movie.

'Nine' ladies plus Kristen

Fergie exclaimed, 'Manny Pacquiao won!'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rebecca T. Acquicho

LOS ANGELES—LAST WEEK, WE SAT the Golden Globe, the Rebel-inspired character played by Daniel Day Lewis, in Bob Marshall's much-awaited film adaptation of the musical "Nine."

In our weekend in New York, we interviewed the actresses who played the women in Guido's clutches like Sophia Loren, Nicole Kidman, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Stacy Ferguson (aka Fergie), Judi Dench, Kate Hudson. We also talked with Julianne Moore for Tom Ford's "A Single Man" so, sorry Guido, we literally ran around you.

Julianne, our last interview, exclaimed upon sitting on the chair just vacated by the legendary Sophia: "This is tough following Sophia Loren! I mean, come on. Oh my goodness! Talk to quite a challenge!"

Nomination-worthy

But the actress, nomination-worthy for her performance as a 1960s-era woman in Tom's directorial debut, needn't have worried. She was her usual engaging, pleasant self.

It was our first time to interview Sophia. She calmly subpoenaed Brunette who starred in several unrushed our imagination as a boy in those 1960s Life magazine covers. Wearing a shoulder-revealing top, the Italian diva was classy and flippantly amazing.

Nicole, the director of the lot, regaled us with stories of Sunday Brunch, her baby with country music star Keith Urban.

At the end of our talk with Penelope Cruz, she whipped out a small camera and took group pictures of us for a magazine article

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'Nine' ladies plus Kristen

From page J2

the voice willing.

And Marion Cotillard? Let's just say that this French woman who swept the Best Actress prize her lip-smacking **Edith Piaf**'s character in "La Vie En Rose" is just as compelling as she sees her oral-singing voice in "Nine."

Stacy Ferguson—she's her professional name as an actress—exclaimed "**Mamie Phenomenon!**" to us and greeted our wide-laser in "Nine!" She was one of the smartest, most articulate in the weekend of interviews.

Dame Judi Dench lowered the volume as we told her that her "I Am 16 Going on 17" duet with **Fergie** O'Dea, their humorous number in a **Richard Rodgers** tribute concert, is a hit on Facebook.

Kate Hudson gave the best description of what it was like working with all these iconic women, as she recalled a scene where they all appear together: "I crutched Nicole; this marvelous goddess walking and then Marion, who is like a French angel. Then there's this cute, quirky, sexy, sexy Spanish woman (Penelope) rolling down the steps. And then this Dame (Judi) and the lion (Sophie). It was crazy fun and then I see this pop star Fergie. You just go, 'This is awesome.'"

Watch her cut flirtatiously in these scenes in evening editions.

Serious Stewart

Stephen and her costars are barely recognizable for the screens of the locus is **Brianne Stewart**, star of "The Twilight Saga: New Moon." In our latest talk with Kristen, she was her usual self—serious and intense.

From Bella, she goes to portraying Joan Jett in a biopic of the 1970s teenage band, The Runaways, which is also the title of the coming film. She said, "I was so terrified before I started preproduction for 'The Runaways.' Everybody knows Joan Jett but nobody knows how she got her start with The Runaways. The Runaways girls were allowed to hold electric guitars and play rock and roll and were a because The Runaways did it first. It was more about free will and sort of saying, 'I can be just as successful as a man.' I feel so completely responsible to her as a person. She has become my friend now."

"That was the most important time of Joan's life," added the actress with those striking dark eyes. "You really hope that you do it right. It is pretty daunting. It's every Barbie's script come to life. I'm so excited about it. It's one of the coolest opportunity I've been given."

Of course, Kristen had to answer a question about her leading man, **Robert Pattinson** not **Taylor Lautner**. Here was her reply: "They both have been filmed into resembling Bella's so much. Here's the thing. I'm talking about Taylor and Rob, I'm sure of talking about myself as well because we're all in the same position. I know for a fact that they have been able to retain their realer selves. They have both become two of my really good friends. They're both really good people and are really good actors."

On Taylor, who reportedly had to work hard to keep his Jacob Black role (Wilson Michael Lopez) was said to be out of the se-

VIRTUAL (from left) Jodi Dench (top) and Sophie Lowe make lovely company, making Kate Hudson envious. "This is awesome!"

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PLDT

'New Moon' eternally boring

But fans don't give a fig what critics have to say about their beloved Bella and her beastie boy toys

REVIEW

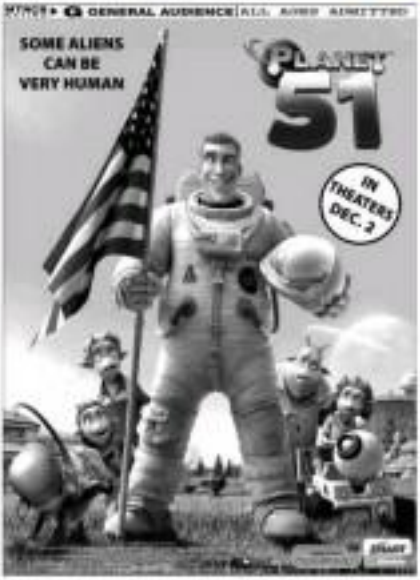
KRISTEN STEWART and Robert Pattinson: Heating surfaces and... big, hunky boy toys

WHERE WOULD Hollywood be without that old standby, the vampire-were-wolf-schoolgirl love triangle?

As every Sephenic Meyer fan knows, "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" is the one where studly vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) dumps his human girlfriend, Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), for her own safety and she turns to old chum Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner) for solace, unaware that he's a werewolf, and therefore Edward's natural enemy from way back.

What fans are about to find out is that unless, present company included, don't care much for this adaptation of the second in Meyer's "Twilight" series. And those fans won't give a fig what those critics have to say about their beloved Bella and her beastie boy toys.

They will turn out in blockbuster legions, teen girls in rowdy packs descending on theaters, along with ladies-night-out groups of friends and coworkers, and daughters with their moms (and plenty of grandmothers, no doubt).



With Chris Weitz ("American Pie," "About a Boy," "The Golden Compass") taking over as director, the second movie has mainly what those fans want: big, hunky boy hair. Sculpted torsos everywhere. Smoking caresses of fingers on fingers. Ips on lips. Love as deep and frenzied, the universe would probably like them go on without the other 70 min. did we mention it's over?

Brooding and mad

More important, not one, but two supernatural hunks standing over the quivering carcass of a breathless, doe-eyed young woman.

For anyone who has not spent the blood rush of youthful obsession as all things "Twilight," here's a few issues with "New Moon". It's really not bad' movie, as two halves of a movie that don't fit. Meyer sees Bella has all the basic id, well, a sloppy teenager. The real rivalry between the werewolves and vampires is an age-related species cat fishes with greater preparedness and prevention.

Finally, "New Moon" is boring, mentally as.

"Twilight" screenwriter Melissa Rosenberg returned to adapt the script, and "New Moon" shares its predecessor's brooding, diary of a mad girl tone.

Bella starts senior year in the worst way as Edward and his adopted family of sensitive new-age vampires pack up and move away.

Fans will rue the relatively recent screen time for Pattinson, whose Edward still scores Bella her desires but has to break things off to (he doesn't complicate their relationship by giving her a hard boner.

Months of pining and hard dreams eventually see raised he Bella as she starts hanging out with Jacob, who relishes no opportunity to show off his Olympian pecs and abs.

Bella's kissing stinks, though, because Jacob's just covering well-tan puberty. Suddenly, he's running with a pack of werewolf brothers in his Native American tribe, and he pushes Bella away just as Edward did—for her own protection.

What's a girl to do? Mope some more.

Old vampire enemies are still preying on Bella, though, giving Jacob and his boys some bloodsuckers to fight. The visual silliness of the guys transforming into wolves are disappointing, over in a flash. An American Werewolf in London" did a much neater job of it almost 30 years ago.

Then "New Moon" veers back to the Cullens as Bella races to Italy to save Edward, who's become a world-class mopey himself.

There, they engage in a showdown with the Volturi, who are sort of the A-listers of the vampire world and are full of themselves as any spoiled Hollywood star.

Chief among them is Jon (Michael Sheen, a mainstay in the "Underworld" franchise, as he swings both ways), whose smarmy little smile and prim bearing say the menace he's supposed to convey. Dakota Fanning, in a departure from her brooding, pale vampiress, has a fleeting role as a Volturi bad girl.

As Edward's soothsaying vampire sister Alice, Ashley Greene provides more snap with a few choice lines than the leading players manage in the entire movie. The rest of the Cullen clan, including Peter Facinelli as psychiatrist Carlisle, are bit players in this film, as are Bella's circle of human friends, though Anna Kendrick has some lively moments as schoolmate Jessica.

Billy Burke stirs it back as Bella's police-chief dad, though you have to worry about the irresponsible cuckoo given sole custody of his daughter gets into trouble his search.

Unintentional laughs

The soap-opera melodrama of Stewart, Pattinson and Lautner's performances provides some unintentional laughs that lighten the otherwise relentless gloom.

But Stewart is enormous almost all the time, and her Bella is just as deep as her arousal. With less flat speech and listless presence, it's unfathomable how two different sets of emotions could exist so completely on her.

All three leaves are so jejune, it's hard to imagine why any of them would want to spend eternity together.

They've been in two more movies, though. And that sounds like a real eternity. AP

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THAT, DUE TO AN UNFORESEEN MEDICAL COMPLICATION THAT AFFLICTED ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HI-5 CAST, NAMELY MR. TIM MADDREN, AND WHICH WILL REQUIRE HIM TO UNDERGO IMMEDIATE SURGERY ON NOVEMBER 23, 2009 AND SUBSEQUENTLY A SHORT REHABILITATION, WE ARE CONSTRAINED TO POSTPONE THE HI-5 SURPRISE SHOW SCHEDULED ON 25 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2009 AT THE MEGAFONT TO NEXT YEAR. WE SHALL ADVISE THE PUBLIC SOONEST ON THE RESCHEDULED DATES.

PLEASE BE ADVISED ALSO THAT THE SCHEDULED MEET & GREET ACTIVITIES AT THE SM MEGAMALL ON 21 NOVEMBER 2009 AND AT THE SM MALL OF ASIA ON 22 NOVEMBER 2009 ARE CANCELLED.

IN VIEW OF THIS FORTUITOUS EVENT, WE WISH TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY OUR TICKET HOLDERS, THAT THE TICKETS THEY PURCHASED FOR THIS EVENT SHALL NONETHELESS STILL BE HONORED ON THE RESCHEDULED DATES. FOR THIS PURPOSE, KINDLY AWAIT FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS ON HOW TO GO ABOUT REVALIDATING YOUR TICKETS. YOU MAY ALSO VISIT WWW.HI-5.COM, AU OR WWW.FASTBOOKING.COM OR CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555 FOR MORE DETAILS.

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MORE goddess from Kate Hudson (center), Phalcon Cuellard (left) is "like a French angel", Penelope Cruz is "cute, quirky, sassy, sexy."

'Nine' ladies plus Kristen

Front page 12

the biggest change in Stilpen' from 'New Moon' is that you take a girl who completely questioned everything and has become curious and then gets her birth back. That's really hard to do. Even though she's open and absolutely willing to fall in love again with someone else, she is genuinely of the mind that she will never feel anything like what she felt again. When it comes back, she's strong enough to take it back and say 'Okay, those were mistakes. Those were choices that we made. But let's own them and move on.' She's not fickle. She acknowledges that that's how life is lived. Things change. She's not terrified of change throughout the entire first two movies—that is the point. She's like, 'Okay, great.' She becomes very willing to roll with the punches."

"I like it when Edward and Bella get back together," she said about her favorite scene in "New Moon." "There are almost no words spoken per se—more relationship is revealed. That alone is the coolest thing about this. It summed up what I love about it."

"I like 'New Moon' of all the books," she declared. "I read it from such a different perspective than most people. I read these books from the perspective of 'I have to bring this to life. I have to play this.' In this book, she reaches the highest and lowest points."

When I signed on to do the movie, there were four books," she added. "I think Stephenie (Meyer) is finished writing. And we have every intention of making all four books that have been written. I couldn't imagine not completing the saga. Of course, I'm not remotely sure where we would do it. That is a character that I concentrated to create. I'm lucky to be able to follow her this long. Usually, I have such a tiny period of time to play a character. I usually do small movies. Without doing a TV series, this is really the only other venue that you can follow something for a long and concentrated period of time. It's something that I really like and would love to continue."

Dakota Fanning, who has a small role in "New Moon," is also in "The Runaways." She and Kristen have become BFFs. "She's amazing," Kristen gushed about Dakota. "She's incredible. I look up to her. And I'm three years older than she is. I have a relationship with her that I probably couldn't have with most other people because she's the only person that could possibly understand completely where I'm coming from. We share a lot. That makes any friendship closer. She's just really cool. I really like her. We get along really well."

On how she is surviving the "Twilight" mania, Kristen said, "If I didn't have an outlet where I could really be in all ways, I would be in discomfort. I don't know where I would be. I've worked really hard to get to this point."

So, thank you but she prefers to be ensnared. "I would definitely not want to live forever," she said with a laugh. "It would be too much."

E-mail the columnist at ronpadilla_5588@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Napalm Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/napalmreport.

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Krista up against Team Jinkee

By the Entertainment staff

JINKEE PACQUIAO seems appeased, or is taking things in stride. For now. She smiled and grooved to the beat as the country's biggest rock star of the moment—and arguably the world's best boxer ever—lambasted Manny over Mexico's alleged affair with entertainer Krista Ranillo.

Judging by the comments posted on Team Jinkee's wall, a Krista-bashing campaign is underway.

RUSHES SUNDAY

Sample posts

- "Go Jinkee ... Wahahahaha ... it Krista, she's from Mexico and Pernida has the dessert's not like one."
- Hoyo mo 'yan Jinkee, fight lang ouray Fight ... Inang supporter! Inyo 'yan ..."
- Lit comment on photos showing bronzed singer Mocha locking lips with Krissy: "Winners the talaro of this girl ... A shame to her family and friends ... and all Filipinos!!!"
- Pardon! At in, Pacman's father!"

Unfazed as all the more look, Krista herself posted of late a duo fire, replying to a TT re: pretty's query on the rumors, done: "We're still discussing

PHOTO COURTESY KRISTA RANILLO (2008 photo digitally modified).

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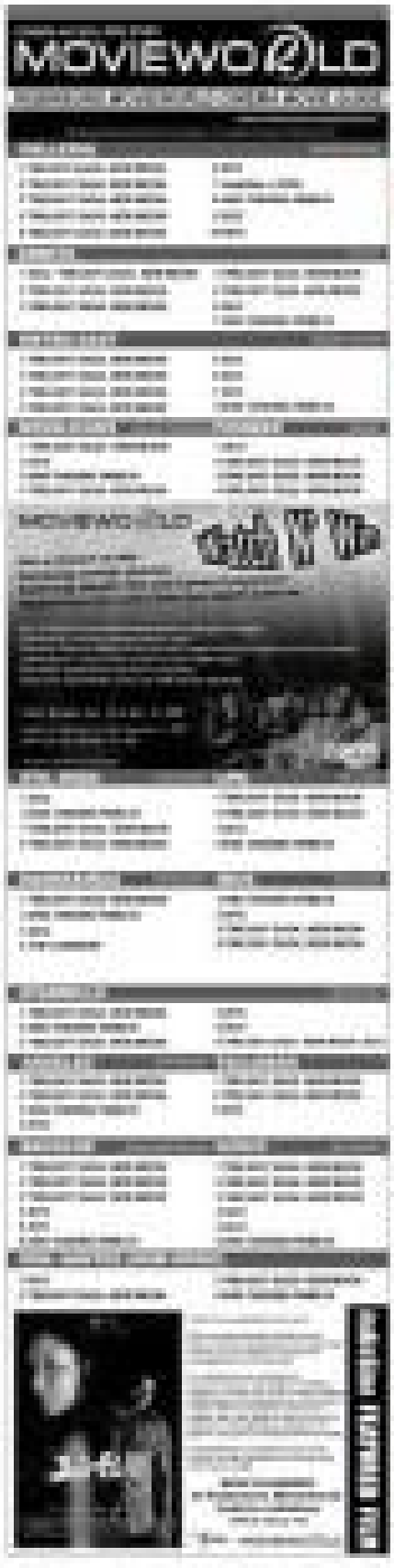
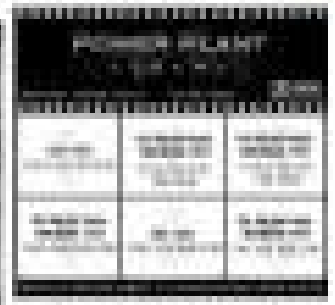
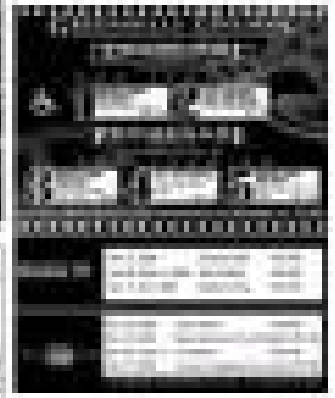


Krista....





'New Moon' to break U.S. box-office this weekend to the tune of US$ 100M

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Krista up against Team Jinkee

From page 9

KRISTINE: What's up with old friend Kuh?

JOHNNY: Drugs. Sorry. (8 years ago, and 10 years from now)

ALC wants a boyfriend! Ere is he, on the double!

reputation, [then] for violating the Violence Against Women law."

The creative sounded puzzled: "How has not stopped Bong-bonking on the line. I thought he reformed. Why is he still smoking me?"

Sensor ... again

Mon Solo—infamy Iyap was named People magazine's "sexiest man alive" for a second time on Wednesday, joining an elite club of lookalike honorees that includes George Clooney and Brad Pitt.

People magazine described Depp, 46, as "the king of cool with the killer cheekbones." Depp, who also took the title in 2003, succeeded 2008 winner Hugh Jackman.

People senior editor Kate Coyne told the CBS Early Show, "He was sexy 15 years ago, he'll be sexy 10 years from now."

Baldoni

Top of the tabloids

Dy rep chon the stories in JM animal shenlow she used. (And why we are moved. (Pwede move.) ♦ Article: Rumbo naturalize naghahad. (Chase lang sa... boys and girls!)

♦ Jennifer, Kristine ilan ulam sinigang sa iyo. (Ha ha ha!)

♦ Anne Curtis engagement ring? Sa Sea Malibu Outside, yawa.)

♦ Jesse, angel Lucia ayaw nang mag-dyowa? (Too early.)

♦ Angel, dinala ka papa si Sam? (Ui, cute.)

♦ Jessie Tello at Cassino Reyes patitira na magsama. (Sarreet? Bat walang?)

♦ Enjoy nights-bulbon ako ang Echo si Head Evangelista, mga parang sa ang mandol physic ang sands, dito ang high? Lotso sa you.)

♦ KC Concepcion! Outto ka nang magka-boyfriend! (Ha, wala pa ba? Ah, a sure sure?)

E-mail author @inquirer.com.ph

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 NEW MOON
2 NEW MOON
3 NEW MOON
4 2012 PG-13
NEW MOON

NEW MOON PICK-A-PRIZE PROMO

Shangri-La Plaza

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ULTRA 7 CINEMA

NEW MOON

*** IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT *** IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT *** IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ***

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NO EXTENSIONS due to the Manila Film Festival

Solid facts about your 2 to 6 years old.

Have you ever wondered why it is so easy for your toddler to catch a cold or cough? Do you notice him feeling exhausted after playing with other kids? Does he usually feel feverish after a usual afternoon of relaxing under the sun? If you answered yes to any of these, then it's time for your little one to have additional vital vitamins and minerals to help build his natural defense against colds and flu.

Fact: According to clinical studies, at ages 2-6, your child's Immunity Foundation is still underdeveloped. During this age, the body's immune system is considered to be relatively "on, 24/7 under development.

Therefore, his ability to fight common or complex illnesses is still weak, making him more susceptible to infections that affect children. At this period, he is in the process of overcoming harmful viruses and bacteria.

Fact: All children have constant developing defense system against common illness and ailments, but doing your best to try their level every care to help strengthen it, and using supplements specifically from designed for the environmental stressors. Immunity can make sure to help your child battle his Immunity Foundation.

Bottom line: putting him in confidence factor. Keep in mind that they are learning

during their time, exam that he gets the right amount of exercise especially on body. Never only healthy food. Be creative and give a bright nutritious dish as evening treat, so that your kid will crave more. And don't forget the daily dose of vitamins. It's essential to help his Immunity Foundation become stronger.

Fact: Today's specially formulated vitamins and, herbs to help strengthen a child's developing Immunity Foundation. The combination of Vitamin C and Zinc is more essential as it is supposed to help maximize your child's ability to fight sickness.

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